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The Canary Book.

Section II.

EXHIBITION CANARIES.

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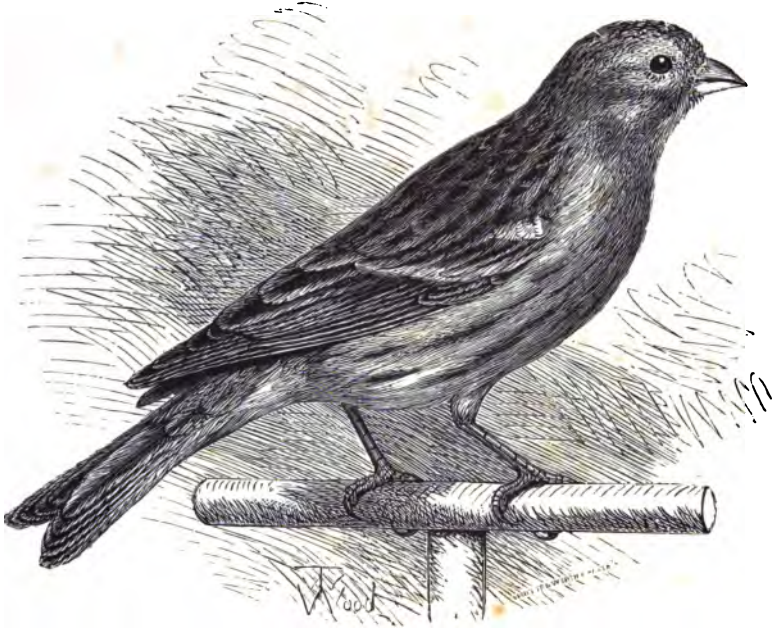

ORIGINAL WILD CANARY.

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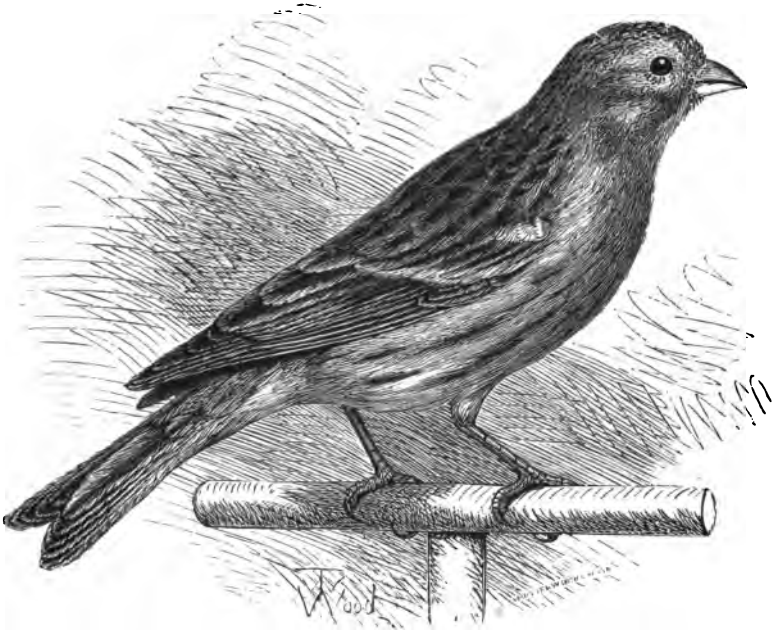

ORIGINAL WILD CANARY.

THE CANARY BOOK:

CONTAINING

FULL DIRECTIONS FOR THE BREEDING, REARING, AND MANAGEMENT OF CANARIES AND CANARY MULES; CAGE MAKING, &c.;

FORMATION OF CANARY SOCIETIES;

EXHIBITION CANARIES, THEIR POINTS AND HOW TO BREED AND EXHIBIT THEM;

AND ALL OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THIS FANCY.

Illustrated.

By ROBERT L. WALLACE.

SECOND EDITION,

Enlarged and Revised, with many New Illustrations of Prize Birds, Cages, &c.

LONDON:
L. UPCOTT GILL, 170, STRAND, W.C.

1884.

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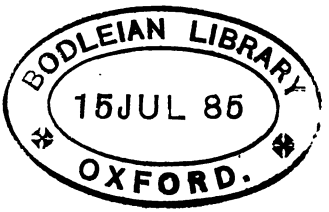

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PREFACE.

In the first issue of "The Canary Book" I gave no preface. This I intentionally avoided. My reasons were—First, I believed, from my knowledge of the class of people for whom the book was principally written, that they would prefer being without one, as they, like many other people, look upon introductory remarks to a work of this kind as superfluous and unnecessary; secondly, Bird Fanciers, as a class, do not care about a lot of rodomontade and sentimentality. I speak generally. I have always found them very practical. There may be, and probably are, exceptions to this, as there are to all other rules.

My object was to give the result of my own personal experience and observations of over a quarter of a century, in a clear and terse manner, and not the reflex of theorists and inexperienced persons, whose "ipse dixits" are frequently fallacious and misleading. I am pleased to think that object has met with the approval of lovers of the Canary, and that a New Edition of my work has been rendered necessary.

In bringing forward a Second Edition, I have added much, the result of so many more years of careful observation and study. The articles on Mule-breeding, the methods

adopted for improving the Crested varieties, and the influence of various ingredients on the colour of birds, are amongst the principal additions, and will, I trust, be found of service to those who take a special interest in these subjects. Many more illustrations, both of birds and bird-keeping appliances, have been added to the present edition, and I feel sure that the admirable portraits of prize birds contributed by Mr. Ludlow will be greatly appreciated by all readers.

THE AUTHOR.

Dudley, *November*, 1883.

CHAPTER VII.

THE ORIGINAL CANARY—GENERAL REMARKS.

THERE is probably no bird so well known and so universally admired throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland as the canary. It may without hesitation be pronounced the "household pet," as it is beloved and esteemed by all classes, from the humblest cotter in the land, even to Royalty itself, it being a well-known fact that our much-beloved Queen takes great interest in these charming little choristers.

The canary is, without doubt, one of the most charming pets that can possibly be possessed, and, but for the fact that some high-minded people, whose notions are peculiarly aristocratic, imagine that everything pertaining to canary breeding must of necessity be plebeian in character, it would most assuredly hold a much more important position, as a fancy, than it hitherto has done. But why this notion should be associated with canary fanciers more than with pigeon, rabbit, poultry, and dog fanciers, I am at a loss to understand. I have passed through the entire category of these fancies, as a fancier, and despite my most earnest endeavours to solve the mystery I am positively unable to do so. I will venture to say that there is no bird more engaging in manner than a canary; nor any more gay, happy, and cheerful in confinement, and withal so harmonious; their power of memory and imitation is perfectly wonderful, and the attachment of many of those birds to the individuals who supply their daily wants and treat them kindly is widely known, so that, for those who are in pursuit of a harmless and innocent

amusement, I know of none where more gratification and enjoyment are likely to be found.

INTRODUCTION.—Hitherto, I have failed to meet with any record giving an account of the first introduction of the canary into England, but Willoughby, in his "History of Birds," states that canaries were quite common in his time; and Gesner, who wrote in 1585, likewise mentions them. Aldrovandus, who published a work on "Ornithology" in 1610, gives a fair description of this bird (*vide* vol. ii., page 355). It is said, on good authority, that canaries were first introduced into England from Italy, and I believe this statement has never been contradicted. There are, however, a great many different varieties of this elegant and charming bird, and since the introduction of the "All-England" exhibitions, which were begun six-and-twenty years ago, this fancy has made considerable head-way.*

The canary is to be found in a wild state in some parts of Southern Africa, and also in several of the islands in the Atlantic Ocean, including St. Helena, Ascension, and the Cape Verde Islands, as also in the Canary Islands. It is stated by an early writer on this subject that these birds found their way to the latter islands by accident. A ship, bound for Leghorn, having on board a number of these birds, foundered near the islands, and through this circumstance they were set at liberty. They found the climate sufficiently genial to induce them to breed, and by this means they became thoroughly acclimatised. These birds bear a striking resemblance in size, form, and marking to the ordinary linnet of our own country, but the ground or body colour is green, which is almost the only difference observable. They are frequently brought to this country by sailors from Santa Cruz and Teneriffe. They are much famed for the excellence of their song, which is exceedingly soft and melodious, differing materially from the canaries bred and reared in this country. The bird, from which our illustration has been taken, was the property of Madame Galeo, of London. It was brought from the island of St. Helena, and although wild when she got it, it became tame and tractable. It is said to have been

* I believe the first All England Open Show was got up by Mr. Ruter, Mr. Clark, and myself, at Sunderland, I acting as secretary.

a most charming songster. It was shown in the "Any Other Variety of Canary" class at the Crystal Show in 1875.

VARIETIES.—The common canary is a bird pretty generally known in most countries throughout Europe; in size and shape it is not much unlike a common linnet; its colours are yellow, buff, green, and green pied, or variegated; it is admired chiefly for its song, and may be met with at all professional bird dealers; but by those who are known as "true fanciers," birds of this kind are merely regarded as nurses for rearing the more valued and favourite varieties; consequently they are considered of little value, and may be purchased at a low figure, cock birds varying from 3s. 6d. each upwards, the hens usually being sold from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. each, much depending upon the time of year and other circumstances. Probably the varieties most highly esteemed among the *cognoscenti* are those known as the Crested Norwich and Belgian Fancy canaries, and next to these come the London Fancy, Lizards, Cinnamons, clear and variegated Norwich Fancy, Glasgow Dons, or Scotch Fancy, Manchester Coppies, Yorkshire Fancy, &c., although many of these so-called varieties are artificially produced, and are the result of crossing one variety with another in such a manner as to produce some totally distinct feature or features, differing in some material points from all known and existing varieties; but I need scarcely point out that it requires great care, judicious management, and considerable knowledge and skill to bring about a phemomenon of this description, to say nothing of the time, patience, and expense incurred. I will now proceed to describe the different varieties, and to point out the distinguishing features in each class; the best method of crossing in order to produce those features; and to lay down a standard whereby the different points of excellence may be readily estimated.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE BELGIAN.

ORIGIN—SIZE.—In my descriptions of the different varieties I will begin with that known as the Belgian canary, which, as its name denotes, is a native of Belgium. These birds are bred there in large quantities, and exported to different parts of Europe and America, and several of our colonies. I have in various ways endeavoured to obtain some information bearing on the origin of these remarkable birds, but without eliciting anything reliable; the oldest fanciers in Belgium seem unable to give any satisfactory account of them; I must, therefore, decline to hazard any remarks of a speculative or theoretical nature in regard to them, and will simply treat them in the character of an established variety. This variety of canary has been known and admired in our country for more than thirty years, and they are considered, and, I think, justly so, the nobility of the canary race. The principal recommendation of a bird of this description is its peculiar form, its large size and graceful and commanding contour. It is a large bird, and is variously estimated to measure from 6½in. to 7½in. or even 8in. in length. from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail; but few will be found to exceed 7in., which may be taken as an average size. It is a difficult matter to measure a bird of this kind except by the eye, and that is an uncertain and unreliable "rule;" besides, much depends on the health, condition, and season of the year for these birds to show to the greatest advantage; and, although size is an important consideration in birds of this class, contour is much more so.

MY FIRST BIRDS.—It is now thirty years since I purchased my first pair of Belgian canaries, and I have a very vivid recollection of the characteristic features that were at that time looked for by fanciers; they were length and thinness of body, sleekness, and smartness; and the *beau idéal* of a bird of this description was one that was so exceedingly slender, that it gave anyone the idea that it could be passed through a lady's gold ring. But this particular fancy at that time was in its infancy in England, and the admirers of Belgian canaries were groping their way in the dark; the birds then imported were not thoroughbred, or at least very few of them, and those that were, were regarded as deformed and ugly. Dealers had to be resorted to at that time for canaries of this sort, as very few fanciers, in the North of England at least, were known to breed birds of this variety, as they had not been introduced into England many years previously. At that time I resided in a very pretty village about three miles distant from a town, which, in a commercial aspect at least, is now considered one of the chief in the county of Durham. The importer in this instance was Joseph Greenwell, a man known throughout the "fancy" thirty years ago, not only as a dealer, but as a fancier as well. He was in the habit of receiving importations of these birds during the autumn and spring months of the year, at stated periods, and they usually arrived on Saturdays, which I fancy was a good arrangement on his part, seeing that the majority of his customers were of the artisan class, and these men received their wages weekly, and generally on the Saturdays, consequently they would be prepared with the wherewithal which would enable them to become possessors of the objects of their admiration, and ready cash is considered a *sine quâ non* in the bird fancy. Upon one occasion I called at Greenwell's to purchase a buff Belgian cock, but I found he had not one to suit me. He thereupon informed me that he expected a "fresh lot" on the following Saturday morning. Having ascertained the time of their probable arrival and other necessary information, I determined, if possible, to be one of the first in attendance, so that I might have an opportunity of selecting something to my mind. Although I lived

fully three miles from the town, my enthusiasm brought me up to time. When I reached his house I found several men waiting the arrival of the birds, all entire strangers to myself, but apparently eager enthusiasts. I found from their observations that the majority of them were old "practical hands," and being at that time a mere stripling myself, I listened to their conversation in profound silence, in the hope of extending my bird knowledge, which was then somewhat limited. In the course of a quarter of an hour the birds arrived, and I was greatly amused to observe the eager, anxious expression of face that some of these men immediately assumed; all was silence in a moment, and eyes were peering in at every crevice and loophole in the cage in which the birds were, to catch a glimpse of the envied occupants, as Joe, in his usual cool and calculating manner, removed the covering that concealed them from view. This done, a scene of unusual excitement, bustle, and commotion followed, a little confusion, and a terrible clamour of tongues; in the meantime Joe produced two or three smaller cages, and said, "Stand back a bit, and I'll catch them and put them in here, where you can get a better look at them." This request was readily acceded to, and presently out came the enchanters and enchantresses. No sooner had they settled upon their perches and given themselves a "pull up," when several voices were heard exclaiming, "How much for this?" and "How much for that?" In answer to these eager interrogatories came the quiet and patient rejoinder, "How much is it worth?" One replied "I'll give so much," and another would offer so much more, and in this manner what were considered the "pick of the flock" were disposed of.

I lingered by in silence until all appeared satisfied, when I ventured to ask the price of a noble yellow hen with immense shoulders, a nice sleek head, good neck, legs, &c., which had excited the mirth of all present, and not a few were the witticisms that were levelled at the poor unoffending object. One said it was a "young camel," another that it was a "Richard the Third," but all appeared agreed that it was naturally deformed, except myself, and I certainly was the only one who appeared to have the least desire to possess it. Greenwell tried to dissuade

me from having it, and said he was sure there was "something wrong with its back." Nevertheless, I had a fancy for it, whether it was maimed or not, and said I would purchase it if it was not a very expensive bird, as I was not sure then but it might possibly be deformed, and consequently of little value. He said I might have it for 7*s.*, and I accepted the offer at once; after I got it home and compared it with my other birds, it occurred to me that this was the "Simon Pure" of a Belgian canary, and the next time I was in town I told him I should like a few more of the same shape, and gave him my opinion respecting it; he smiled quietly, but very significantly, but this did not alter my opinion; some time afterwards I picked up a buff cock similar in shape, but not nearly so good as the hen.

About this time a gentleman with whom I was acquainted commenced to keep birds; he was a manufacturer, and exported goods to Belgium. I suggested to him that it would be a good plan if he were to commission his agents in Antwerp to procure for him a pair or two of the best Belgian canaries they could obtain, and to instruct them to employ some well-known fancier to select the birds; and furthermore to send the kind that was most highly esteemed in that country. He adopted my suggestion, and in due time four birds arrived, and they proved to be the very identical counterparts of my "deformed" hen. The agents wrote to say that they were of the best and most highly-prized strains, and were much dearer than the birds usually sold for exportation. This settled the matter at once, and I was greatly pleased with the discovery; the cross breeds soon gave way to the thoroughbreds, and I had numerous applications for the progeny of my "crooked backed" birds, as they were frequently designated. Three or four years after this some of our most ardent fanciers ventured across the Channel and selected their own stock, and the best birds I have ever seen have been imported birds

Importing Birds.—It is not a long journey, neither is it a very expensive one, so that anyone wishing to obtain high-class stock would do well to take a trip to the Continent; those desirous of doing so can embark either at Hull or London. A boat leaves Hull for Antwerp every Wednesday, and returns the Saturday

following; the single fare is 15*s.*, return tickets cost 22*s.* 6*d.* The passage occupies about twenty-four or twenty-five hours from port to port. The Hôtel de l'Europe is a place where every comfort can be procured; all waiters and servants speak English, and the charges are extremely moderate. Any further information about the boats, &c., can be procured from Messrs. Gee and Co., agents, Hull. No fancier need be deterred by the fact that he is unable to speak the language of the country, as any of the waiters at the hotel I have named will readily get him an interpreter, who, on payment of a small fee, will accompany him to the different breeders, and assist him to make his purchases. Besides Antwerp, good birds can be obtained at Brussels and Ghent, these being the three principal towns for getting the best birds at. Prices vary in accordance with quality and the particular season of the year; the best time to go is probably the month of September, after the close of the breeding season, as birds are most plentiful then, and as a matter of course you have a better chance of selecting something to suit you, and at a lower price than you would pay at a more advanced period of the year. The Belgians set great value upon their best birds, and high prices are demanded for prize specimens, but moderate or faulty birds highly bred can be purchased at reasonable prices. High class birds range from forty francs upwards (£1 13*s.* 4*d.* in English money), but fabulous prices are asked for rare gems. Belgian canaries are readily acclimatised in England and Wales, as also in Ireland and Scotland; there is not a great difference in the temperature of these countries. Belgium lies between 49deg. 30sec. and 51deg. 30sec. north latitude, and between 2deg. 30sec. and 6deg. 5sec. east longitude, whereas England including Wales extends from 49deg. 58sec. to 55deg. 46sec. north latitude, and from 5deg. 40sec. west, to 1deg. 45sec. east longitude. These birds, however, do not endure the cold so well as most other known varieties. The Belgian fanciers esteem their own breed of canaries far before all others, and set little value upon some of our esteemed varieties, such as Norwich Fancy, Lizards, and the like.

CONSTITUTION.—Belgian canaries are probably the most domesticated of all the tribes of the *Fringilla Canaria*, and on this

account they are great favourites with most fanciers. They soon get accustomed to and become familiar with their regular attendants, and display very little of that timidity and nervousness so perceptible in many of the other varieties—I refer more especially to birds kept in a room set apart for their sole use, and which are only visited occasionally; and were it not for one or two important considerations, they would doubtless become the most popular favourites of all true canary fanciers; the first of these is that they are naturally of a delicate constitution, as a rule, and appear to be predisposed to asthma and consumption, maladies not easily curable, and which carry off the major part of them; they like warmth, and it is a difficult matter to get birds of this breed strong enough to inure them to a room without fire during the winter months of the year. If they were kept in a room where a moderate and regular temperature could be kept up during the coldest period of the year, and when the north and east winds prevail, by means of hot water pipes or other contrivances, they no doubt would thrive well, and ultimately we may produce a race of birds more vigorous and healthy than those of the present day. Another drawback is the enormous price which prize birds of this variety usually bring, more particularly when you consider that the best and hardiest bird of its race would be so completely "used up" if it were sent round to compete at every show during one entire season, that it would be, literally speaking, worthless for the purpose of breeding from, if it did not kill it outright. I myself have known as much as £12 paid for a single bird, but I must confess that, taking him "all in all," I have not "looked upon his like again." Great care should be taken of Belgian canaries during the moulting season, as at this time, more than at any other, they are likely to contract the diseases before mentioned; they ought invariably to be kept covered over during this eventful period in their lives.

Breeding.—In selecting stock for the purpose of breeding, I would recommend fanciers to purchase nothing but good birds. I do not mean all prize birds, or even show birds, but one of the parents at least ought to be *par excellence*, and for this purpose I prefer the male bird to excel in the qualities which are most

highly esteemed, although good birds are often produced when the reverse of this recommendation is carried out, but in that case, much, I imagine, depends upon the constitution of the hen; nevertheless, I prefer to adhere to the plan I have already named. Few people succeed in obtaining good birds from moderate parents, even when they are known to be highly bred; but with one good bird judiciously matched with a moderate bird known to be of a good strain the best results are often realised.

If you possess, say a large strong male bird, with great length of body, good legs, fine sweeping tail, and long slender neck, but deficient in shoulder and coarse in feather, you must match him with a hen possessing large shoulders, and close and compact in feather, regardless of all other properties; that is to say, never mind if she is rather small, and somewhat short in the legs and neck; the chief features that you require are those specified to create a suitable match for the cock I have described. If the hen, in addition to the qualities named, possesses other good properties, so much the better, and so much more likely will she be to produce a greater number of good specimens, but if you succeed in breeding one first-class bird of a single pair of birds in a season, you may consider you have done remarkably well.

I do not recommend putting nothing but show birds together, as when birds are too highly bred their progeny are correspondingly tender. Another thing which I wish you clearly to understand is this: never put two birds together possessing the same points of merit, unless they both possess in an equal or approximate degree all the good qualities desired—what I mean, is, never put two moderate birds together; say, for instance, two birds both being deficient in some essential qualities—such as two birds of a diminutive kind, or two birds wanting in development of shoulders, chest, neck, legs, &c.; but always contrive to pair your birds in such a manner that the one bird predominates in the opposite features to the others, as by adopting this method you are pretty certain to get one or two birds at least which will inherit the peculiarities of both parents so blended that the result will, in all probability, prove highly satisfactory to you. It is usual to pair a yellow cock and a buff hen together,

or *vice versâ*, as the case may be. It will, however, be found very advantageous to breed from two buff birds occasionally, in preference to a yellow and buff, as it tends materially to improve the size, constitution, and feathers of the birds; but it must not be repeated too frequently, or it will produce coarseness. Some fanciers occasionally pair two jonque (yellow) birds together in order to produce fineness, but the produce are generally deficient in plumage; but a bird bred from two yellows, and mated with one bred from two buffs, or, better still, one bred from double buffs twice over—that is, a bird bred from two buffs, and a second time mated with a buff, the produce of the last cross—very frequently breed the handsomest and best birds.

If you desire to breed variegated Belgians, be sure to select two or three well-marked birds, cocks or hens, not too heavily marked, and pair these with clear birds of the opposite colours and sexes, select from the produce of these birds those which are best marked, and couple them again with clear birds, taking care to pair them in accordance with instructions already given, with reference to breeding clear Belgian canaries, in order that you may effect a general improvement in the *contour* and *tout ensemble* of your birds. If you happen to breed more clears than you care for, put a marked bird with a clear bird bred from a variegated strain, and by this means you will soon restore the markings. If you put two marked birds together, unless they are both lightly marked, they are very apt to produce young birds too heavily marked, and if this plan is persevered with, that is, the re-crossing of variegated birds, you will ultimately produce them nearly all green together; and occasionally you will get an entirely green specimen.

Be very particular in selecting birds for breeding purposes; satisfy yourself that they are perfectly healthy—this is a most essential consideration, and one which cannot be too rigidly carried out—as much depends upon your first selection of breeding stock for your future success in establishing a race of birds which is likely to reward you for your trouble. Never breed from diseased birds, however good they may be, or you will in all probability propagate the complaints from which the birds suffer—I refer more especially to asthma and consumption

—and thereby sow the seed of hereditary disease. I know it is very galling, and even tempting, when you possess a magnificent specimen of this variety affected with one or other of these direful complaints, and have to forego the pleasure which you had doubtless looked forward to ere the disease presented itself in outward form, but for all that it is a real necessity, if you want to produce healthy progeny, with vigour and action; you must brook the disappointment manfully, and I am sure you will never regret your conduct in after years. You had far better terminate the existence of a bird of this kind in the most humane manner possible, a thousand times over, than be led to so rash an act as to couple it with a healthy partner and breed from it, as the disease would be sure to show itself sooner or later, in most, if not all, of the birds bred from such parents.

When you are selecting birds to breed from, it will be well to bear in mind that two-years-old cocks are preferable to one-year-old birds, and their produce are generally stronger and more robust. In fact, I think it desirable not to attempt to breed with male birds the first season, for they often fail to impregnate the eggs, or most of them, and it unquestionably weakens their constitutions, which is a material consideration. I do not object to breed with one-year-old hens.

REARING.—A great many bird fanciers will tell you that Belgian canary hens are "bad breeders," that is, bad nurses, but they seldom consider how much they have themselves to blame for this apparent want of maternal affection; their over-anxiety or curiosity frequently leads them to meddle with the birds during the process of incubation, or shortly after the eggs are hatched; indeed, I have known some men so foolish as to disturb a hen every fifteen or twenty minutes whilst she was busy hatching; forcing her off the nest each time merely to ascertain whether she had hatched another egg. How such men can expect birds to perform their duties satisfactorily, under such circumstances, is more than I can say. The majority of canary hens, without distinction of class, instinctively become jealous at this particular time, more especially for the first few days after they hatch; and if the curiosity of fanciers incites them to such acts of indiscretion they must not express dissatis-

faction with the result. I am quite certain that a great many hens, which doubtless otherwise would supply the wants of their progeny well enough, are by such treatment completely spoilt.

Always give a hen, and more especially a Belgian canary, a fair chance, and if she is in good health and left entirely alone, the probabilities are more in favour of her proving a good nurse than a bad one. I have repeatedly heard it asserted that common canary hens are the best mothers, and without doubt they are as good as any; but experience informs me that they are little or no better than hens of many other varieties if they are interfered with. There are no canaries more attentive to their duties in assisting to rear their broods than the male birds of the Belgian variety; and I see no reason why the females should not prove correspondingly attentive. At one time I bred a large number of these birds; and one season I reared twenty-six birds from four pairs; three of the hens fed their own offspring, and one pair reared nine birds themselves, but this may be considered exceptional; still it is not beyond the bounds of probability to effect a similar *coup de la bonne fortune.* Leave them alone to their own maternal instincts, treat them the same as you would birds comparatively worthless, and you will find that Belgian hen canaries are far better nurses than you were led to suppose.

If a hen is delicate or out of health, you cannot reasonably expect her to perform her duties satisfactorily, and in such cases you must transfer her eggs to another hen on which you can place reliance; but do not bother her, not even if she is a "common hen." If a hen has had a difficulty in laying her eggs, and has been prostrated in her efforts to do so, it would not, under such circumstances, be prudent to entrust her with the rearing of her progeny; therefore, if they are at all valuable, it will be advisable to effect a transfer with some other hen, whose produce you consider to be of much less importance.

Always bear in mind the following maxim, "That which is naught is never in danger"—*i. e.*, that which is considered of no intrinsic value; for, although you may, as most likely you will, think very highly of some of your birds, and set great store by them, you will nevertheless find it a golden rule to treat them as

though they were next to worthless. Do not disturb them any more than you can possibly help, and leave them as much to themselves as circumstances will permit, and I am sure the result will be, in the majority of instances, satisfactory alike to the birds and to yourself.

It sometimes happens that the young Belgian canaries are weak and puny, and have not sufficient strength to raise their heads for the purpose of receiving nutrition from their parents during the first two or three days after they are hatched. In the former event you must administer food to them in small quantities, at short intervals, for the first three days, and if the mother appears to sulk, and refuses to feed them afterwards, they must be transferred forthwith to a foster parent. (For further particulars see chapter on Breeding, page 44.)

As soon as the young birds are able to cater for themselves, place them in large cages, with plenty of length, breadth, and height, so that they will have ample room for exercise, which will be found very beneficial and conducive both to their health and well-being.

RUNNING OUT.—When they reach the age of seven or eight weeks you must begin to train them to "run out," that is, to teach them to go in and out of their usual domiciles, *à la Belgique*, into show cages, as it is a most reprehensible practice to catch birds of this variety with your hands, and a custom which is very apt to scare and frighten them. This performance is easy of accomplishment, and should be achieved in the following manner. First catch the bird you desire to teach, and place it in a show cage with a sliding door, and allow it time to settle down quietly; then take another cage, a *fac simile* of the last named, and place the doors opposite each other, taking care to raise the sliding doors to their full height, and place the apertures directly opposite each other; next take a piece of thin wood or lath, previously rounded, and perfectly smooth, like the top of a fishing rod, about two feet or two and a half feet in length—a portion of a penny cane stick will answer the purpose quite well. Put this quietly and carefully through the wires of the cage in which the bird is placed, and endeavour to drive it, in the easiest manner possible, into the other cage. Be sure to

exercise your utmost patience and skill, and above all, do not irritate or excite the bird. First put the stick above the bird, and force the latter gently to the bottom of the cage, moving the stick slowly and dexterously in such a manner as to induce the bird to approach the entrance to the adjoining cage; but by all means keep your temper, for if you attempt rough usage you will most assuredly frighten the bird—an ocurrence which must be avoided if possible. Speak softly and kindly to it during this operation, and with a little perseverance and careful manipulation you are certain of success. If the bird exhibits symptoms of fear, leave the cages in the position indicated for a day or two, and it will become familiar with the arrangement, and pass from one cage to the other of its own accord. After this you will have no difficulty in getting it to pass readily in and out of the cages. If you find that you are necessitated to have recourse to the latter plan, place a little maw-seed, or a little egg and bread, or some tempting delicacy, in the empty cage, which will induce it the more readily to enter. After you are satisfied that the bird understands what it is required to do, run it into a breeding cage, and repeat the same treatment until it becomes a proficient pupil. When a bird is once properly drilled in this manner it never forgets it, and after it becomes a thorough adept at it you will find it of the greatest use in assisting you to train other birds. Having fairly succeeded in your endeavours to train one bird, place another beside it, and continue the same practice as before; you will find the other bird soon follow suit, although it may show a little awkwardness at first, and in this manner you will be able in a few weeks to teach all the birds in your possession to come and go from one cage to another.

GETTING INTO POSITION.—As soon as you discover that you are the possessor of a Belgian canary fit for competition, you ought to proceed to train it not only to "run out," but to get into show position; this is done in a variety of ways, and depends greatly upon the temperament and disposition of the bird. If it is at all nervous or timid, you will need to exercise great care and attention and the utmost vigilance, particularly at the commencement; you must approach it with great caution and very leisurely, chirruping to it with your mouth, or speaking to it

tenderly in low, soft accents—for birds are quite capable of appreciating blandishments and endearments—and by this means you will more readily acquire the confidence of your pupil. As soon as it appears to be on friendly terms with you, lift the cage and move it about in a quiet way, and as soon as it becomes familiarised with "handling," move the cage about more freely, raise it well up and scrape your finger nails along the bottom—not too roughly; the noise will attract its attention, and it will instantly appear on the *qui vive*; if it does not dash about or appear too fidgety, you may move the false bottom or drawboard gently to and fro, first slowly, and afterwards more rapidly. As soon as it becomes thoroughly accustomed to this mode of treatment, you may introduce the stick you use for the purpose of a "running wand;" put it through the wires in the rear of the bird, and push it with the utmost care and gentleness beneath the perch on which the bird is placed; let it project two or three inches in front of it, and then proceed to move it about slowly and quietly; if it is not startled it will commence to "pull" itself together, raising its shoulders and lowering its head, and will stretch its legs to the utmost of its ability. This is what you desire it to do, but if you continue it too long it will probably wheel round suddenly, in which case the wand must be withdrawn at once, and after the lapse of a few seconds introduce it again the same as before; continue this practice for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, not less than once a week, and not more than three or four times at the most, or you will make it too familiar, which is nearly as much to be deplored as if it were too shy. It is a good plan to place the cage against a wall during this operation, more particularly if the bird is timid or unsteady in his movements. Sometimes it is necessary to pass the wand in a rapid and dexterous manner underneath the cage, allowing it to project suddenly in front or at the side of the bird, but this is only required when the bird becomes too bold. Experience will suggest to the operator other devices for the performance of this necessary exercise.

CLASSES.—Belgian Canaries are capable of being divided into eight distinct classes, *i.e.*: clear yellow, clear buff, ticked yellow, ticked buff, evenly-marked yellow, evenly-marked buff, unevenly-

marked yellow, unevenly-marked buff; although it rarely happens that they are divided into more than four, and sometimes fewer. The clears are almost invariably the best birds, nevertheless it does occasionally happen that a very lightly marked or ticked bird can be obtained quite as good in standard points as the very best of clear birds; hence, I think that where four classes only are provided for this variety of birds, the ticked and clears ought to compete together, and the evenly-marked and variegated should be arranged under one head. Buffs and yellows cannot be shown together on equitable terms, as the buff birds generally have much advantage in size, &c. It is likewise a well established fact that the variegated birds are much inferior in points of merit to the clear birds. This is somewhat difficult to account for, unless we could believe that the progenitors of the last named were originally all clear yellows and buffs, and that the marked variety are the result of a foreign admixture, and that whenever the birds appear in the mixed plumage they inherit more largely the properties of this allied blood. Be this as it may, it is a singular and undoubted truth that the more heavily a Belgian bird is marked the more deficient he is sure to be in all the essential characteristics which constitute a high-class bird of this variety.

POINTS.—The points required to constitute a high-class Belgian canary are as follows: A small sleek head, rather flat on the crown, well set, with nicely chiselled jaws, a neat, well-formed beak, a full eye, a long slender neck, delicately formed, and having the appearance of being chiselled, and which should be gracefully curved downwards from the junction of the head to the commencement of the shoulders; the shoulders should be broad, very prominent, and well formed, rounding towards the back, with an elegant curved line; the back should be well filled in. From the termination of the deflection of the shoulders to the back, the back as well as the tail should be almost perpendicular, with the slightest possible inflection towards an inner curve; the chest should be prominent and well developed in front, but flat at the sides; the waist long, small, and finely formed, with an inward curve towards the thighs; the legs should be long and straight, and well set, with well-made

substantial thighs and good shanks and feet; the tail should be long, narrow, neat, and compact, and ought to resemble in appearance the shank of a pipe; the wings should be well formed, firmly placed, and hung close to the body of the bird, the tips coming close to the rump; colour and fineness of feather are minor points, but still must be considered. When a bird is in position, he should stand quite straight on his legs with his head well forward and down below the line of his shoulders, the latter being well up. The chief feature to be observed is the form and general contour—the easy, majestic, graceful carriage of the bird—commonly called "standage"—this being most essential, and an indispensable characteristic in a true show bird. There should be a decided appearance of hauteur in its manner and bearing.

SHOW FORM.—In Belgium this variety of bird is called the "bird of position," and the more readily and easily it acquires the position desired the more valuable it is. Some birds are very apathetic, and require a deal of rousing to get them up to show form. This is often the result of too much handling or ill-health; the birds get too familiar with it, and, consequently, treat it contemptuously. Other birds, again, are too nervous, and require to be gently handled, or they will throw themselves out of form through fear; but I will treat of this part of the subject under a different heading.

SYMMETRY.—There is another important consideration in judging Belgian canaries, and one which is too frequently overlooked, and that is proportion, or uniformity of features throughout. For example, picture to yourself a small bodied bird with extraordinary large shoulders, and short stiff legs, and a short neck; why it is simply distorted to ugliness. Again, imagine a particularly slender bodied bird with a huge head, thick straight neck, and a stunted tail. All known standards of beauty, whether of the human form or of animals, or other things, are regulated by symmetry, and it is equally applicable to birds. No doubt it is a difficult matter, if not an impossibility, to obtain a bird possessing all the qualities enumerated. Nevertheless a very close approximation to the object sought

after is occasionally to be found, and when it is, we should do all we can to show our appreciation of its many excellent qualities. A very little matter will often disfigure what would otherwise be regarded as a good specimen of a Belgian canary. Take, for example, a long fine bird, with a sleek flat head, long slender neck, well developed shoulders, and short legs—those known as "sickle legged" (hook-shaped); this alone would prevent the bird from assuming that position which is regarded by all connoisseurs as the true line of beauty, and, consequently, its other grand qualities would be seriously counterbalanced by this great drawback.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE. — In adopting a standard of points for judging canaries, I think I cannot do better than follow the plan pursued by the Americans, and that is, to give the maximum of perfection as representing one hundred points, as by the application of this method any person will be enabled to compute the relative value of each individual feature separately:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING CLEAR BELGIAN CANARIES.

Head 6, Neck 7, Shoulders 10	23
Back 10, Chest 5, Waist 6	21
Legs 8, Tail 6, Wings 4	18
Size 7, Colour 8, Quality of Feathers 8	13
Contour or Position	15
Condition	10
Total	100

In judging marked birds I would allow ten points for markings; and, as no bird is perfect, a good margin will always be left to work upon; consequently it is not necessary to give another table merely to distinguish the single difference, as in all other respects the one already given is equally applicable to the variegated birds as it is to the clear varieties.

PREPARING BIRDS FOR EXHIBITION.—If you are the fortunate possessor of exhibition birds, and you wish to introduce them to the public in that character, it will be necessary for you to prepare them for their *début*.

You must commence, about three weeks or a month prior to the first show at which you have resolved to give them a "run,"

to feed them with a little hard-boiled egg, and stale but wholesome bread—home made preferred—or a little biscuit—either luncheon or picnic will answer quite well; if you use the latter it should be crushed to powder. Chop the egg fine, or rub it through a sieve or piece of perforated zinc; if you use tin nests with bottoms made of the material just mentioned, rub it through one of these; and if you choose bread in preference to biscuits, it must be rubbed through in the same way, or between the hands. Mix the ingredients in equal proportions; let each bird have a small quantity of this food once a day; prepare it fresh every morning, and in addition give it every alternate day half a small thimbleful of maw seed—not more—do not give green food of any kind. You should likewise give them occasionally a little boiled carrot, cut into small pieces, and placed between the wires of the cages; this will give a fine glossy appearance to the feathers, and help to keep the birds in good condition. Show birds ought to be kept scrupulously clean. Their cages should be cleaned out at least once a week.

It is an objectionable practice to wash Belgian canaries to send to shows, and ought not to be resorted to except under peculiar and pressing circumstances. Colour in these birds is merely a trifling consideration; form being the chief characteristic. Still it is not by any means desirable to send a canary to a show as black as a chimney sweep when it can be avoided. If you reside in a large town, and in a locality surrounded by manufactories washing becomes an imperative necessity; for however good a bird may be in all points, to see it clad in dirt and completely begrimed, is a thing which even the most considerate of judges is very loth to tolerate. Good condition adds greatly to a fine exterior either in birds or animals; it is one of the things looked for and generally appreciated, and which reflects the greatest praise upon those who bestow the attentions necessary for its production.

If, however, you happen to live in the suburbs of a large town, or in a small country town almost exclusively of an agricultural character, or in a village or hamlet, or detached dwelling, you ought to have little difficulty, with ordinary care and attention, in keeping your birds sufficiently clean to send them to shows

during the greater portion—if not the entire show season—unless you have the dire misfortune, as some fanciers have, to be the occupant of a smoky house, in which case if you cannot remedy the evil you should have the chimney swept frequently, say once a month, or even oftener if a very bad case, from September to February in each year. You must likewise keep the cages containing the show birds covered with a thin material, close in texture, and, in addition to these precautions, you will find it advantageous to nail some "list"—that is the outer edge, commonly called selvedge, of cloth (which can be obtained of any practical tailor merely for the asking)—round the frame of the door of your bird room; that is, up each side and along the top in such a manner as to make it project over the crevices between the door and the frame, and nail a lath an inch or so thick at the bottom of the door frame; as a matter of course, the latter must be put on inside of the door if it opens outward, but if it opens into the room then it must be outside. These appliances will be found of great service in keeping out the smoke. You might likewise, with some advantage, fasten a broad leather flap over the keyhole of the lock.

With these arrangements it will be necessary to open the window occasionally, to let in a current of fresh air, unless there is a chimney with an open fireplace in the room. By careful attention to these directions your birds ought to require very little in the way of washing; but if their feet are littered up with dirt, or their tails and wing-ends are tinged and soiled, it will be necessary to give them a slight wash two or three days before they are sent off for exhibition. This can be readily accomplished with a piece of clean flannel, a little scented or common soap, and some clean warm water. First make a soap lather upon the flannel, and apply it to the parts that require to be cleansed; lastly, rinse off with pure water, using another clean cloth or flannel for this purpose; dry the feathers as much as you can with an old silk handkerchief, and place the bird in a warm room until he is quite dry: be sure to get the soap thoroughly out of the feathers. Show birds should be supplied with a bath once a week, if the weather is not too cold. Glass vessels, such as preserve or jelly dishes, are best adapted for their use; and

the birds take to them much more readily than they do to dishes made of earthenware or clay.

PACKING FOR SHOW.—Whenever you send Belgian canaries to a show, be careful to wrap them well up and make them as cosy as possible. I would advise you to have green baize or scarlet flannel covers made to put over the show cages, and to pack them in boxes or cases specially made for this purpose, each to contain four, six, or eight birds; but I think one to hold six is quite large enough to move about with freedom and ease. The cases can be made with light wood, skeleton frames, and covered with canvas or thin oil-cloth, or some similar material; the advantage of using the latter is their lightness, as they cost less in transit. The carriage of birds to and from exhibitions is often a considerable item, and amounts to a good round sum at the end of the year if you send a dozen or twenty birds to every show of importance during the entire season.

TREATMENT BY SECRETARIES.—You will find it of advantage to write to the secretaries of shows to ascertain whether the hall or room in which the show is intended to be held is warmed by the use of fires or stoves, and whether your birds can be received a day or two before that on which the birds are to be judged; but probably it would not be advisable to do this if the antecedents of the secretary and committee are unknown to you: but where you can rely upon any individual immediately connected with an exhibition, it will be found commendable to adopt this plan, for if Belgian canaries are exposed during cold weather and become chilled on their journey to a show, they are certain to lose their best form, and the result is very frequently unsatisfactory both to the judges and exhibitors. All birds newly come off a journey should have warm water, and not cold, given them to drink, and you should request secretaries to be careful always to give your birds a supply of this about the same temperature as you would drink tea, as soon as they receive them; never forget to send along with the birds a supply of fresh egg and bread, with a sprinkling of maw seed among it, to be given them as soon as they reach their destination. The same treatment must be observed as soon as they reach home

on their return journey. Several instances have come within my own personal knowledge where Belgian canaries have been sent long distances in cold, bleak, wintry weather, with the thermometer several degrees below freezing point, carelessly packed, and badly protected against the bitter, biting winds and falling snow. When the birds arrived they were "all in a heap," shivering, and stupefied from the effect of the cold, and, as might be expected, sat dull and mopish, and would not "pull" themselves together. No wonder, then, that these birds arriving only an hour or two before the judges were called upon to decide upon their merits, were passed by unnoticed. Next day, after they had got thoroughly warmed up, they might have been seen "pulling" over everything in the class, to the great chagrin of both judges and exhibitors. But who was to blame? How often are judges of these birds subjected to derision, by the unthinking portion of the "fancy," who hurl at the heads of those poor unoffending men the most uncomplimentary and opprobrious epithets, when in reality no just censure is attributable to them.

ADVICE TO JUDGES.—A hint here to judges and others connected with shows may be found useful. As soon as you enter a show where you have been chosen to act in a judicial capacity, I would recommend you in the fist place to take a look through the classes for Belgian canaries. If you find a bird drooping, call the attention of the secretary or other responsible person to the fact, and request that such bird, or birds, may at once be conveyed to the immediate locality of a fire or stove, and there gradually warmed. In a case of this kind, always leave the judging of these classes to the last; take care, however, to have the bird, or birds, returned to their place fully half an hour before you pronounce your final verdict on their merits, otherwise, if the bird, or birds, had not time to cool down, it, or they, might possibly get some slight advantage over their antagonists who had not received a similar privilege. Committees, too, should invariably place the Belgian classes in the warmest part of the room. I have always found these precautions, whether acting in the capacity of a judge, secretary, or a committee-man, to give satisfaction. In judging Belgian

canaries, the greatest caution and discrimination are necessary, as all thoroughly practical men with ordinary observation must know that some birds, and especially those which have never been accustomed to "handling," are nervous and frightened, and consequently require to be approached with great care and circumspection, or they will plunge and dash about the cage in a panic-stricken manner, like a newly-caught linnet; and it requires some time to get them to settle steadily after this fantastic performance.

Other birds, on the contrary, who have been "over-trained," take an immense deal of energy to raise them to a sense of their duties. In cases of this kind I have invariably found it best to lift the cage containing the bold bird, and, placing it in front of me, have stealthily approached the timorous and fidgety one, taking care to do so in the most gentle manner possible, and by whistling or chirruping, or speaking softly and kindly I have generally succeeded in getting it to steady itself, whilst by a little manœuvring I have managed to get it into position. But birds of this stamp are very unsatisfactory to everybody concerned. If fanciers will only adopt the method of training previously pointed out, their birds will become bold and fearless, but it must not be overdone, or the remedy will be as much to be dreaded as the defect.

RULES OF A BELGIAN SOCIETY.—It will be interesting to English fanciers if I give them a translation of an old copy of rules, which I have in my possession, of a society established at Brussels. More especially at this time when a National Society is considered by most fanciers a very desirable institution.

The following is a literal translation of the rules referred to:

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM.

Central Society of Emulation formed at Brussels for the Societies and Amateur Fanciers of Belgian Canaries.

COMMITTEE.

* * * * * * * * *

RULES.

Chapter I.—The Society—Its aim.

Article 1. Formed at Brussels, dating from 3rd October, 1854, a central company of emulation for the societies and the amateur fanciers of canaries of the kingdom

of Belgium, to be called, The Central Society of Emulation. The society's year to commence on the 1st January and end 31st December of each year.

Art. 2. The institution of the society has for its aim—(*a*) To bind and consolidate the bonds of brotherhood by which all amateurs are united; (*b*) to regulate the assembling, and to determine the formation of juries; (*c*) to form measures of emulation in order to stimulate more and more the zeal and devotedness of all the amateur canary fanciers of the kingdom.

Chapter II.—Admission—Society's Funds.

Art. 3. The election of candidates as members of the society shall take place on written application to the committee, who shall decide on the admissibility of the applicants.

Art. 4. The subscription shall be 75 centimes (7½d.), which shall be paid in advance quarterly, either in money to the treasurer, who will give a receipt, or by P.O.O. in the name and to the address of the president, in which latter case the P.O.O. shall be held as proof of payment.

Art. 5. Any member who, at the expiration of three months from the time fixed for the payment of the subscription, may not have paid, will be considered no longer a member of the society.

Art. 6. The society's funds shall be applied to the payment of premiums, expenses of meeting, and the charges of correspondence, office rent, &c.

Chapter III.—Colours and Insignia.

Art. 7. The colours and insignia adopted as distinctive marks of the Central Society and by its members shall be yellow and blue, with embroidered roses, and a silver medal, having upon its face the emblem of the society in vermilion, encircled by the inscription, "Central Society of Emulation of the Amateurs of Canaries of the Kingdom of Belgium," and on the reverse, two Fringilla canaries, perched on an olive branch, and encircled by the device—Peace—Union—Progress.

Art. 8. The wearing of insignia to be determined as follows: (*a*) All members of the Central Society may wear at the buttonhole the medal, suspended by a ribbon of the colours above noticed; (*b*) members of the committee and of the jury shall so wear the medal in saltier, with ribbon of the same colours; (*c*) the president and vice-president shall wear in addition the colours of the Central Society, scarfwise or crosswise.

Chapter IV.—Meetings—Assemblies—Juries.

Art. 9. A general show of of canaries among all the members of the society shall take place about February in each year. To participate in the show it is requisite to have been a member of the society for the whole of the previous year.

Art. 10. The order and locality where the shows shall be held shall be decided by drawing lots. All the members of the Central Society indiscriminately may enter the list, but for a town to enjoy the right to obtain a place it must have a society of ten members at least, being members of this society.

Art. 11. Delegates of societies adhering to the present rules shall meet at least once a year, at a general meeting to be held at Brussels, in order to settle the composition of juries, the basis of shows and the prizes. Societies failing to comply must abide by the decision of the members present.

Art. 12. No society shall send more than two members as delegates to the general

meeting. A special regulation determining the basis and conditions of each assembly shall be settled at the general meeting.

Art. 13. The jury shall contain, as far as possible, sufficient elements to represent all the provincial societies. For this purpose the jury shall be composed of active or ordinary members. Members forming this jury to be named at the general assembly of the delegates held yearly, by show of hands. Jurors may participate in the show, but when appealed to for the price of a bird belonging to the class to which they are contributors, they shall instantly be replaced by ordinary members.

Chapter V.—The Committee—Its Powers.

Art. 14. The committee to be chosen and elected from the members of the Central Society, to consist of a president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and assistant secretary.

Art. 15. The president to be head of the society, his special functions and those of the other members of the committee to be determined by the bye-laws.

Art. 16. The committee shall meet at least once a month, at the head office, to take into consideration letters and writing, and so to act as they shall judge for the common interest of the members of the society.

Art. 17. The committee shall be re-elected every three years, the members retiring being eligible for re-election.

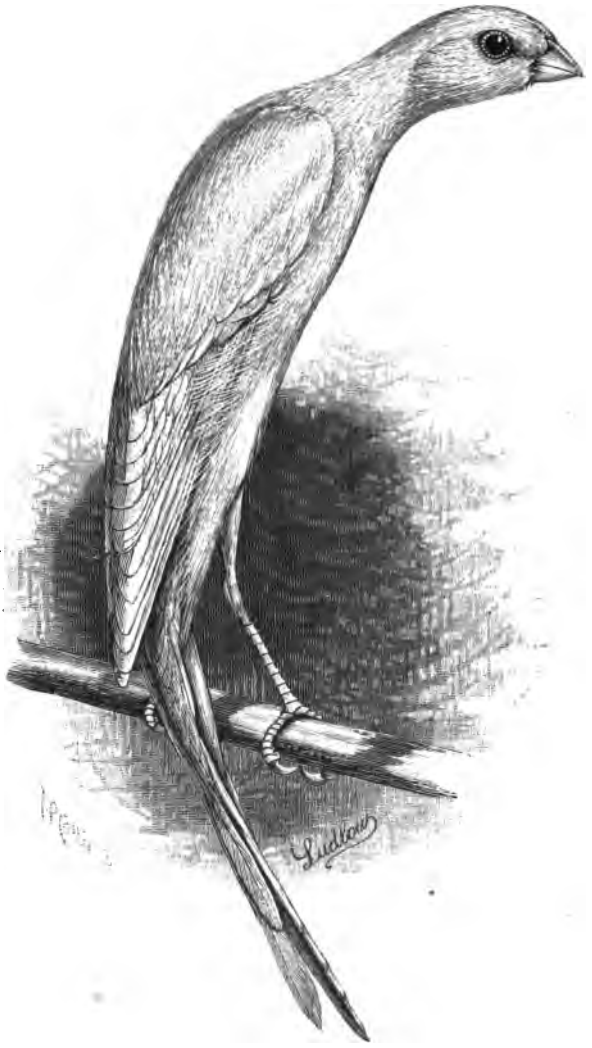
Art. 19. Any additional rule or thing not provided for by these rules shall be presented in writing to the committee by five members at least, and taken into consideration at a general meeting.

Art. 20. A copy of the present rules to be sent to all the societies and to all the amateurs of Belgian canaries, for their information and approval and convenience.

Made and settled at Brussels, at a general meeting of the fanciers, the 17th Oct. 1854.

* * * * * * * * *

Our illustration is an excellent representation of a modern Belgian canary of the highest order.



GLASGOW DON, OR SCOTCH FANCY CANARY.

CHAPTER IX.

THE GLASGOW DON, OR SCOTCH FANCY.

I DO not know how it happens, but the tastes and ideas of Scotchmen and Englishmen are so thoroughly at variance with each other respecting canaries—which may almost be said to be national favourites—that any person not knowing the close proximity which exists between the two countries might very readily suppose that the two races were complete aliens to each other. On the one hand, Scotchmen as a rule care nothing for gay, glittering colours; nothing for beautiful even markings, nor delicately tinted pencillings; neither do they attach much value to crests, however good or exquisite they may be. What they admire most of all about canaries is huge size, plenty of bone, sinew, and muscle, combined with a certain peculiarity of form which, to use their own vernacular, they are pleased to term "hoopit," meaning circular in shape. To these birds they appear to be completely wedded, and they uphold them with a zeal and pertinacity that is almost enviable. But this is only characteristic of the people, for Scotchmen are proverbial for adhering, not only to each other, but to everything that appertains to Scotland, and which they are sure to laud, extol, and defend to the very uttermost of their power and abilities; indeed, so much so, that it has become quite an ordinary observation in England to say to any one similar in disposition, "You are as clannish as a Scotchman;" and this singularity of character is just as strongly exhibited among the bird fancying portion of the community as it is among any other class.

Scotchmen think very lightly of any other variety of canary

seems, how they came to be named the "Glasgow Dons;" but they are now better known as the "Scotch Fancy" canaries. The old-fashioned Don of the period just alluded to is rarely to be met with, as much improvement has been made in the breed—first, by crossing them with the Dutch canary, a large strong bird, resembling the old-fashioned Belgian canary in shape, but with a heavily-frilled breast and back, and deficient in shoulders; but latterly they have been still further improved by being crossed with Belgian canaries of a more modern type, but round in form, and having tails inclined to curve inward.

BREEDING.—To breed Scotch Fancy birds up to the mark, good stock birds must be procured of the right shape and style to begin with. These can be further improved by being crossed with Belgian canaries of the shape already mentioned; but they must be smooth birds, as rough-feathered birds are regarded with disfavour by fanciers. From the first cross select those birds only that are of the true Don shape; discard the remainder. These birds ought to be crossed in with Dons again, and occasionally bred a little "sib" to keep the correct contour intact. Young Dons must be trained to travel, and you should commence their education at an early age, say when they are seven weeks old. Great care and caution are needed at first, as these birds are naturally of a wild and timid disposition, and if you once "gliff" them it is a long time before they forget it. Use the same precautions as I have recommended for training Belgian canaries, with this exception, that, instead of getting them to stand steady, you must excite them to action. They are trained to leap from perch to perch rapidly, and in doing this they best display their form, for which they are admired. At first you may use a thin lath or stick, but afterwards your fingers, or even the motion of your hand will be quite sufficient to induce them to display their agility.

CLASSES.—At all the principal shows in Scotland the Scotch Fancy birds are divided into eight classes at least—*i.e.*, yellow cocks, buff cocks, yellow hens, buff hens, flecked or piebald yellow cocks, flecked or piebald buff cocks, flecked or piebald yellow hens, flecked or piebald buff hens; and, in addition to these,

there are occasionally classes made for pairs at most of the leading shows, such as Glasgow. It will be observed that separate classes are provided for the females, as it is contended that they do not possess a fair chance when competing against masculine opponents; but our brethren across the border can easily afford to do this, seeing that they rarely give classes for any other description of canaries, unless it be for Belgian Fancy and the common variety. The meaning of the terms "flecked" and "piebald" is that the birds are marked or variegated in colour. In some of the midland counties of England the word "skewed" is used to signify the same thing.

The enthusiasm displayed by the Scotch people for these birds is most wonderful, and the number of entries at some of their best shows is marvellous. I have known as many as fifty-eight buff hens competing in one class. One other fact is probably worthy of note, and that is that Scotchmen like, as the Irishmen put it, "a power o' judges;" for, at the show held in Glasgow, on the 21st of November, 1868, there were no fewer than twelve judges appointed to officiate, the total number of birds exhibited on that occasion being 428.

POINTS.—There is a difference of opinion, even among Scotchmen, as to the "style" of their favourite birds, and this is accounted for by dividing the fanciers into what they themselves have been pleased to designate the "old school" and the "new school." The former belong to that class of people who have a great aversion to changes, hence they still appreciate the little old-fashioned Don, whilst the latter are the go-aheads that are always striving to get something better than their neighbours. I belong to the latter class, and for this reason I purpose giving the best description I can of the Scotch Fancy canary of the present day, and which is considered to be the *beau idéal* of a Glasgow Don by those who are looked upon as the best authorities on this subject.

Length of bird from 6in. to 7½in.; a few, but not many, may possibly exceed these dimensions; head small and flat on the crown, but full of character, with neatly rounded cheeks; neck long and fine; and gracefully arched shoulders rather prominent; back narrow and long, and well filled up, tapering from the

shoulders to the tail; chest full and well formed; waist long and fine; legs long in the shank, with moderately long thighs; tail long, thin, and compact, well "circled," and very free ("souple.") The form of the bird from the crown of the head to the tip of the tail ought to resemble as near as possible the segment of a circle. The tail, which is considered to constitute one of its chief points of admiration, must be supple as supple can be, and should not exhibit the slightest symptom of stiffness; it should be carried well under the perch without touching it. The legs ought to be set far back, and kept well under the bird. The carriage must be bold, free, and majestic, without restraint, and with a certain air of intrepidity about it.

The markings most admired by Scotchmen are, singular to say, those which are almost universally despised by all English fanciers, viz.: An entirely dark head and collar, a breast mark (which, to be deemed really good, must resemble in form a horse's shoe), heavy wing markings, and a feather or two on each side of the tail; but markings go for very little, and only count when two birds are equal in other points. In a case of this kind the markings would be had recourse to to kick the beam; but a dark, badly-marked bird would be placed before a perfectly marked one, if the latter was inferior in "style" to the former.

Next to form of body, which is one of the great essential characteristics in a good Don, come style and carriage, and a well-formed, free tail; for if a good bird possesses the former and lacks the latter qualities, he is looked upon pretty much in the same light as a woman would be if she were of good figure and had thoroughly classical features, but was wanting in vivacity — without warmth, soul, inspiration — a mere cold, phlegmatic beauty. A bird to be completely attractive must be full of life and action, which gives a charm and brilliancy to its external appearance that is lost without it—this is style when combined with correct features.

Travelling.—These birds are commonly trained to pass rather briskly from perch to perch by a motion of the hand. This is denoted "travelling," and unless a bird is a rapid and graceful mover its chances as a prize-taker are sure to be greatly

impaired. Whenever a bird travels from one perch to another the motion of its tail is critically observed, and unless it is perfectly free and glib it is reckoned a fault.

STYLE.—The style of a bird is a weighty consideration with Scotchmen. Some fanciers prefer birds with substance about them, although the majority prefer them fine and slender: but if a bird only possesses in an eminent degree the circular form, good shoulders, fine waist, good carriage, activity, and a long free tail, with plenty of length, and compact in feather, the sticklers for stoutness or thinness soon disappear.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.—The following standard has been carefully arranged, and will be found to give the relative value of the different points of merit attributable to each particular feature, 100 points being regarded as a maximum of perfection:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING GLASGOW DONS.

	Points.
Head	4
Neck	6
Shoulders	5
Back	7
Chest	4
Waist	4
Wings	3
Legs	5
Tail	12
Size	8
Form or Contour (circular)	18
Style and Travelling	10
Quality of Feathers	4
Condition	10
Total	100

The bird represented in our illustration is a specimen of the first water.

CHAPTER X.

THE MANCHESTER COPPY.

SINCE the publication of the first edition of "The Canary Book" a marked improvement has taken place in the estimation of fanciers with regard to this variety. Instead of this breed of birds being confined, as heretofore, almost entirely to the county of Lancaster, and few or no classes being provided for them at some of the principal shows in the United Kingdom, now a very extensive and active demand for them has been created in all parts of the country. This is owing in a great measure to the fact of their now being much used to cross with the Norwich crested variety to gain size in body, and to increase and improve the form of the crests of the birds, and classes for "Coppies" are now made by the committees of all shows with any pretension to be considered "leading shows."

The true Coppy is a large, noble looking bird, and very commanding in appearance. It had its origin in and around the town of Manchester, and was first introduced to public notice under the name of the "Manchester Coppy." These birds are extensively bred in the town just named, and likewise at Oldham, Rochdale, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Stalybridge, and from these towns the best specimens are derived.

ORIGIN.—The Coppy canaries originated from the old Dutch variety, now almost extinct, and which they very greatly resemble in size and general conformation. The crest or "coppy" has no doubt been the result of an extraneous cross with some other variety possessing this appendage, as we never

LANCASHIRE COPPY CANARY.

remember having seen a specimen of the old Dutch variety adorned with a crest, and hence has arisen the appellation or title of the "Manchester" or "Lancashire Coppy." It is now twenty-four years since we first saw a bird of this kind, and those we saw were the property of a very spirited fancier who always made it a rule to purchase the best description of birds of the varieties he kept that money could procure; hence we presume that the birds we then saw were good specimens of the variety at that day; they were, however, much inferior to the birds of the present day in size and contour, and at that time I thought they were a cross between a Dutch canary and one of the common crested variety, and I dare say I was not far from the mark in my conjecture.

POINTS.—The Coppy is probably the largest and most massive of all the members of the canary family, and a good specimen should measure fully eight inches in length from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, and some birds may be found to exceed these dimensions. I have one in my possession now which is considerably over eight inches.

The principal points of admiration in these birds are size, length, and stoutness, and crest. The head should be large, long as well as broad, the beak small and neatly formed, and clear in colour, the neck long, straight and massive, the body should be of great length and very full throughout, with a deep broad chest, large expansive shoulders, square, but not prominent like a Belgian or Scotch Fancy canary, and should exhibit great substance throughout the entire body, the body should likewise extend considerably behind the thighs and appear thick and full to the seat of the tail. They should have good legs, long and massive, showing plenty of thigh. The bird should be erect in carriage, and graceful in its movements, and appear straight in the back from the base of the skull to the rump, but having a gentle but clearly defined curve from the throat to the vent on the under side of the body; the tail should be long and straight, rather massive but compact, and slightly drooping from the tips of the wings; the wings should be closely braced and meet at the extremities or nearly so, although Coppies are very frequently cross-winged, the result of breeding too frequently from two

buffs. The crest or "coppy," which is a very distinctive feature in this variety, should be round in form, full, flat, and very closely and densely packed, without the least appearance of a break or split in any part of it; it should come well over the eyes and beak of the bird, drooping all round, and finish off at the back of the head without showing deficiency of feather. No part of the skull of a good bird should be visible at the back of the head or termination of the lateral crest. The crest should have a clearly defined but close and compact centre, and the feathers should radiate from this point in a uniform manner all round, giving it the appearance of a daisy in full bloom. The position of the bird when placed in a show cage is very important; it should be erect, easy, and elegant, and not cowering or timid; the feathers profuse, but fitting close to the body, not rough, and showing a frill on breast, or coarseness in other parts of the body, wings, or tail; the crest or "coppy," as well as the under body feathers, should be perfectly clear in colour, free from any dark tinge, and should blow as white and soft as floss silk. Some Coppies are quite plain at the back of the head.

The natural colour of these birds is pale, whether yellows or buffs. The "Plain Heads" should be possessed of the same points of excellence in conformation of body, size, &c., as the crested variety, and the feathers forming what is termed the bird's eyebrows should project over the eyes, called by some fanciers "over-hanging eyebrows," and the more a bird shows this peculiarity the better it is considered to be bred for crest. Some of the most experienced breeders, in order to improve the crests of these birds, frequently breed them "double crested"—that is, two crested birds together, but in doing so two birds are chosen that are deficient in crest properties—for example, one bird is selected with a short or a split frontal crest, and the other showing a sparsity of back crest. Sometimes a good bird is obtained in this way, but the Plain Heads which are bred from breeding with two Coppies are the most highly esteemed for re-crossing with Coppy birds again, and I am assured by a successful breeder and exhibitor of these birds that this is the best plan to improve the size and form of the crest.

These birds are very frequently bred double buffs (two buff

birds together) in order to increase the size and feathers, but when it is overdone it results in coarseness.

Some of the specimens I have seen have evidently been crossed with the Belgian canary, but these are much thinner in the body, narrower in the head, and flat at the sides, and show a little of the Belgian shape in the curvature of the back, and are never possessed of such expansive crests as those which are full of the old Dutch canary.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.—100 Points to be taken as a maximum of perfection:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING LANCASHIRE COPPIES.

	Points.
Head and Beak	8
Neck	6
Back	8
Breast	8
Legs	6
Wings	8
Tail	4
Feathers for Closeness and Quality	6
Colour	3
Size of bird	10
Contour and Position	8
Crest	15
Condition	10
Total	100

The illustrations represent two high-class specimens of this variety of canary.

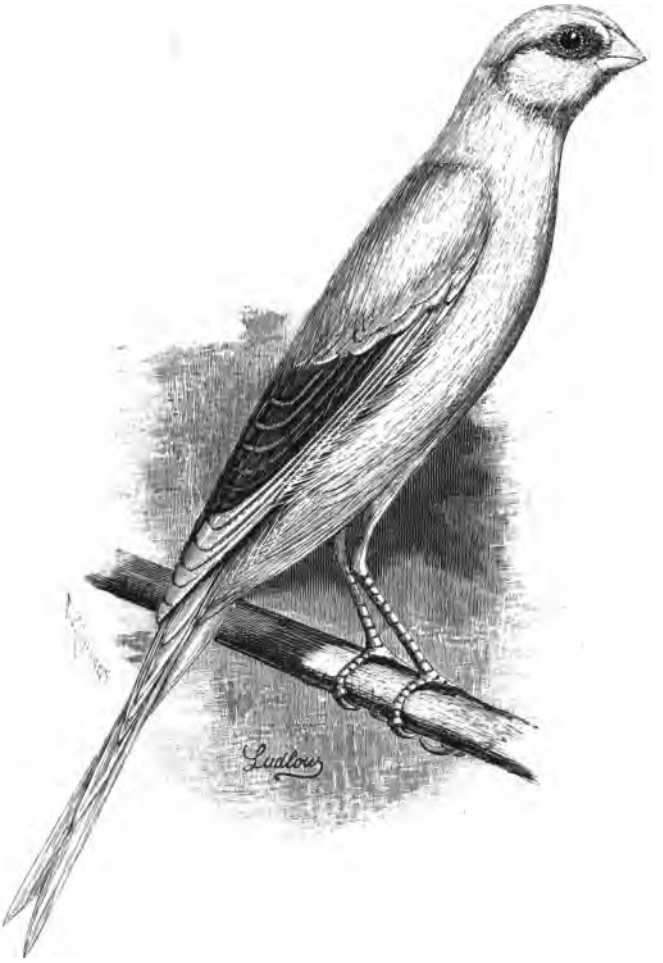
CHAPTER XI.

THE YORKSHIRE FANCY.

THE bird fanciers in London, Norwich, Scotland, and other towns and countries, each have a special and distinct variety of canary of their own; and Yorkshiremen, actuated, no doubt, with the laudable desire to aim at originality, and to emulate the example set by their *confrères*, have attempted to establish a variety of canaries peculiar to the county of "broad acres." With this object in view, they have striven to produce a breed of birds differing in some respects from all known varieties, and, to some extent, their endeavours have been crowned with success. At the present moment this breed of birds may be regarded as being in its infancy, but no doubt in the course of a few more years we shall see a marked progress and improvement in them.* Improvement always takes a considerable time to develope—in anything appertaining to perfection—a new variety of any description, whether it be birds, animals, plants, flowers, or what not, for in point of fact there is invariably a diversity of opinion, even among those who are considered best able to judge of their merits or demerits, as to what ought to constitute an essential quality and what a disparagement; and until these differences are finally set at rest onward progress is sure to be retarded.

BREEDING.—The Yorkshire Fancy birds are produced chiefly by crossing the Belgian Fancy and some other varieties of canaries together, such, for instance, as the Manchester Coppy,

* Since the foregoing was written a marked improvement in the contour of these birds has taken place.



EVENLY MARKED YORKSHIRE CANARY.

the Cinnamon variegated, and the common breed of canary; and some breeders, who are fond of rich bright colours, have ventured to introduce a cross of the Norwich Fancy blood as well; but the majority of them—and among these may be counted their most ardent admirers—entirely ignore both the colour and shape of the Norwich variety, and regard all specimens inheriting any of the properties of the last-named breed with much disfavour.

To breed Yorkshire Fancy canaries successfully and fit for competition it will be necessary to procure a few long, thin Belgian canaries, or, to be more accurate in my description, I probably ought to say three-quarter bred Belgian canaries, select those that are very deficient in shoulder and as straight in shape as they can be obtained—in fact, to speak plainly, birds known in the "fancy" as "bad Belgian canaries,"—those least esteemed and of little value except for breeding purposes of this sort. In addition to these you should get a few plain-headed Manchester Coppies and a few half-bred Dutch or French canaries—I prefer the latter for my own fancy—always keep in view great length of body and tail; the recognised shape and fineness of feather as well. Cross the different breeds of birds already enumerated in such a way as you consider best calculated to obtain the qualities most desired, always eschewing all birds to breed from that show the least inclination to curves whether in the back or tail. After you succeed in producing a race of birds to your mind, adopt the method of "sib" breeding (in-and-in), and this may be indulged in pretty freely at first, as it is the safest plan to follow, and the only one that can be relied upon with certainty for reproducing, establishing, and perpetuating certain features with accuracy, but, as I have before pointed out, in treating of other varieties, care must be taken not to overdo it, or your birds will degenerate in size and stamina, and become puny and delicate. Experience, however, will prove the best and most trustworthy tutor in this respect. The observations I have made relate to the clear varieties only. If you desire to breed evenly-marked birds or unevenly-marked birds, you must observe strictly the same rules for crossing as those laid down for breeding the marked varieties of Norwich Fancy canaries.

CLASSES.—There are six classes of Yorkshire Fancy canaries, and these are generally divided as follows: Clear yellow, clear buff, evenly-marked yellow, evenly-marked buff, ticked or unevenly-marked yellow, ticked or unevenly marked buff.

POINTS.—The principal attractions about these birds are their size and shape, more especially the latter. Another desideratum, and one which ought not to be overlooked, is great length in body. The longer you can get a bird, provided always it is correct in shape, the more valuable it is on this account.

The form mostly admired is that usually termed "straight," *i.e.*, running level all over, from the crown of the head to the tip of the tail. The head should be small and sleek (the cheeks having the appearance of being chiselled) and somewhat flattish on the crown; the neck long, straight, and thin; the shoulders ought to be moderately broad, but not prominent; the back well filled up, but flat and level throughout. The wings are required to be long and well braced together, meeting at the tips; but they must not overlap each other—this is a fault in a bird of any breed; the waist should be long and rather slender; the body inclined to be thin, and flattish at the sides; the tail must be of good length, close and compact in form; the legs long, substantial and inclining to be straight, with good thighs; there should be no appearance of a frill on the breast; and a good bird ought likewise to be very close in feather, and look as if it had been carved out of marble, a real model; colours, pale brimstone yellow and pale buff. The attitude should be a little dignified and commanding, but withal easy and graceful. By far the handsomest birds, however, of this particular breed are the evenly four-marked variety.

The evenly-marked birds are rarely so good in shape and style as the clear birds, but this could not reasonably be expected, seeing that the markings, which are far more difficult to produce than shape, must be preserved intact. The most beautiful specimens of these very charming birds that I have ever seen have been bred in the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, and in some parts of Lancashire, where they are highly esteemed and greatly prized. The eye markings should be elliptical in form, or in two parallel lines at the front and behind the eye; the wing

markings should be even, about seven, eight, or nine feathers in the secondary flights.*

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.—The standard for judging the clear varieties—computing 100 points as representing the ideal of a perfect specimen—is considered as under :

STANDARD FOR JUDGING CLEAR YORKSHIRE CANARIES.

	Points.
Head	5
Neck	6
Shoulders	5
Back	10
Chest	4
Waist	8
Legs	8
Tail	8
Size of bird	10
Colour	3
Quality of feathers	8
Contour and position	15
Condition	10
Total	100

The foregoing criterion is equally applicable to the ticked and unevenly-marked classes, with the exception that fifteen points should be allowed for markings, the other points being proportionately reduced to admit of this being done. In the unevenly-marked class a bird with evenly-marked wings and an oval cap is unquestionably the "pick of the basket," so far as markings are a consideration. Next to this in point of perfection is a bird similarly marked, with the addition of eye or cheek markings, and for a third choice I should prefer a bird with regular wing-markings and a solitary eye mark.

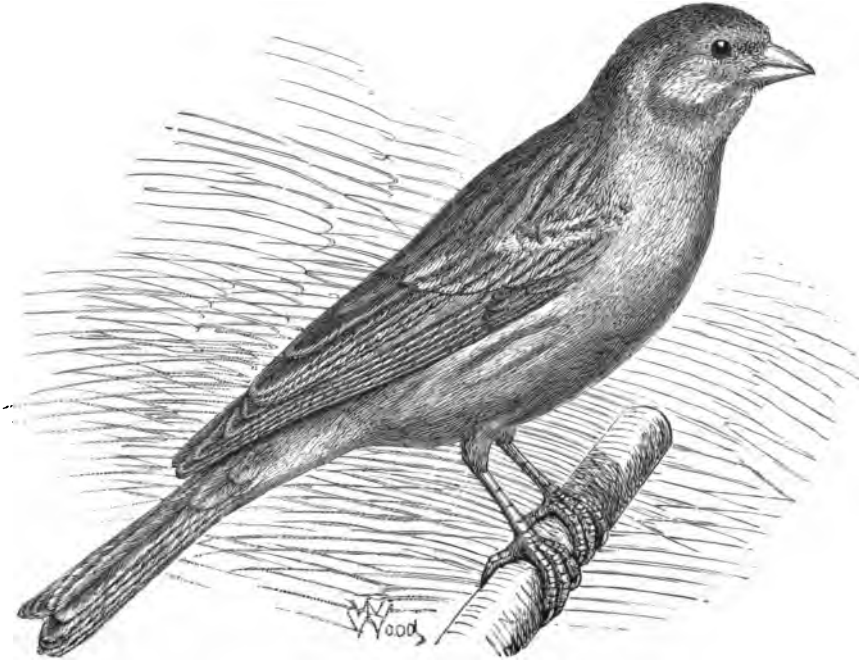
The standard for judging the evenly-marked classes differs materially from that given for the other varieties, as the markings are considered of the first importance in this variety. The subjoined criterion, therefore, will be found applicable to these birds :

* Some fanciers like a dark feather on each side of the tail; I prefer them without it, and like a four-marked bird better than a six-marked one.

STANDARD FOR JUDGING EVENLY-MARKED YORKSHIRE CANARIES.

	Points.
Head and eye-markings	15
Neck, shoulders and back	10
Chest, waist and legs	10
Wing-markings and saddle	20
Tail	6
Size of bird	8
Colour	3
Quality of feathers	8
Contour or position	10
Condition	10
Total	100

The illustrations are taken from birds of the true typical highest-class Yorkshires.



CINNAMON CANARY.

CHAPTER XII.

THE CINNAMON.

THESE birds have derived their name from their peculiar colour, which greatly resembles that of cinnamon bark used for culinary purposes, although it is much deeper and richer in hue. It is an old-established variety, and its origin, like that of the Lizard canary, is beyond the knowledge of the present generation. It is a breed that has always been regarded with much favour among what I may call the educated fanciers; by this term I mean men who have made canaries a daily study for years. There is something about them quite uncommon in appearance—something totally unlike any of the other recognised varieties in the colour of their plumage; and, although the tint is somewhat quiet and sober, it is nevertheless peculiarly pleasing and attractive. Some ten or twelve years ago the colour of these birds was much less brilliant than it is found among those of the present day, as a rule, for since the introduction of the Norwich Fancy blood into their veins their charms have been considerably enhanced. Indeed, so grave and sombre-looking, so thoroughly drabby were these birds in appearance at one time, that they gained the names of "Quaker" and "Dun" canaries.

If I were to begin to extol the variegated Cinnamons as much as I consider they deserve to be, the probabilities are that some person might feel disposed to remind me that they were merely cross-breeds. Just so; but it is well to remember that some cross-bred animals are highly prized, and to give an instance in point

I might mention the cross between the bulldog and terrier, which is, in most cases, a much handsomer dog than either of its progenitors, and a breed greatly valued by the *cognoscenti* of the canine race.

A reason which militates greatly against this particular breed of birds is that there are so few shows that make separate classes for them; and this is more easily explained than remedied. The north country fanciers, almost without exception, cross the Cinnamon and Belgian Fancy canaries together, as they prefer symmetry to colour; whilst the south country fanciers give precedence to the latter, and for this reason they cross the Cinnamon and Norwich Fancy varieties with each other; the consequence is that, whenever the two distinct crosses of birds meet together in the same class for competition, the awards of the judges very rarely give satisfaction to all parties. Most of the secretaries and committees of shows are fully aware of this bugbear, and rather than run the risk of bickerings arising at their shows, they prefer to make an "any other variety class," instead of giving a special class to the variegated variety.

In some parts of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Durham, and Northumberland, many elegant specimens of the Belgian cross are to be met with—large slender birds, graceful in form and commanding in appearance, with sleek flat heads, exquisitely chiselled, and long slender necks, with good substantial legs, well formed, and a fine erect carriage. Add to these properties a pair of evenly-marked wings and two delicately and beautifully pencilled eye-markings, and you have what I consider a gem of a bird to behold. "There is no accounting for taste," for the cross between the Cinnamon and Norwich Fancy canaries are very diminutive birds, displaying nothing beyond the form of the commonest type of canary, and having no other recommendation beyond their superior colour over the class of birds I have endeavoured to portray; but whether high colour in this case really is an advantage is purely a matter of opinion; for my part I think that the infusion of Norwich blood, giving the colours a brighter and a deeper hue, detracts rather than adds to the appearance of these birds, for I have always considered that one of the most pleasing features about them is the great contrast in

the colours, which is so readily apparent in the cross with the Belgian canaries, but which is not nearly so perceptible in birds bred between the Cinnamon and Norwich Fancy varieties. Indeed, whenever I look upon a superb specimen of an evenly-marked buff Cinnamon—a cross between the Belgian Fancy and Cinnamon varieties—it invariably reminds me of that beautiful bird the turbit pigeon. It may be thought by some a rather singular comparison, but such is the fact, nevertheless; there is something so serenely pure, so mild, affectionate, and innocent-looking about them (when clean and in proper condition) that I often wonder how any person can look upon them without admiring and esteeming them.

It is greatly to be regretted that any difference of opinion should exist among fanciers in regard to this variety, as it undoubtedly has been the means of preventing, to a considerable extent, the propagation of one of the most beautiful and charming of our cross-breeds.

Cinnamon, as well as most of the Cinnamon variegated, birds, have eyes of a pink or palish red colour, and they can be distinguished by this peculiarity when they are only a day or two old, as the pink shows through the thin film which covers the eyes of the young birds.

BREEDING.—It is a little singular, but none the less true, if you cross a Cinnamon canary with one of any other colour or breed, you may rest assured that the cinnamon colour will predominate eventually, if it does not in the first instance. To illustrate my meaning more clearly, we will suppose that you have mated a Cinnamon and a Belgian canary for the purpose of a cross, we will likewise presume that among the progeny obtained from this pair of birds is one perfectly clear in colour. The following year you mate this bird with a Belgian canary again, or one of a similar breed, and you will find that some of the produce of the latter cross will be Cinnamon or Cinnamon Variegated, but most probably the last-named kind. I have known instances of this occur in the fourth and fifth generations, when the Cinnamon bird first used was well bred and free from any other cross or admixture of foreign blood. The colour of the cross breeds

is, as a matter of course, much paler and more dingy-looking than the standard colour recognised in the genuine article; still it is for all that an unmistakable cinnamon hue.

A few years ago I mated a good jonque Cinnamon cock with a jonque Lizard canary hen—both being odd birds, but of first rate quality. I thought they would do for feeders if their produce proved worthless. They bred nothing but pure greens and Cinnamons, but chiefly the latter, and all were very rich in colour, and were much admired by everyone who saw them. A friend of mine had a young green cock from this cross, and the following season he mated him with three hens of different breeds, as an experiment, and in every instance good average specimens of Cinnamon canaries were produced.

Some people will tell you that Cinnamon canaries are bred by crossing a green canary with a clear yellow one, but, unless one or other of the parent birds has some of the genuine Cinnamon blood in its composition, you may depend upon it such a circumstance will never happen. I have known people who have put jonque green birds to clear yellows, and buff green birds to buffs, over and over again for this purpose, and I have done the same thing myself many years ago, but all to no use. That some people have succeeded in breeding them in this way I do not for a moment doubt, but I am quite confident the Cinnamon blood existed in one or other of the progenitors.

Those fanciers who are desirous of breeding birds of this variety, fit for any competition, will need to procure a few high-class birds to begin with. The best plan to obtain them is to claim a few good male birds at the Crystal Palace Show at Sydenham, unless you are acquainted with any fancier who is reputed for having a good strain, but, even in this case, I should prefer to get the hens from him and claim the male birds as advised. Nottingham was famed for the production of Cinnamon canaries twenty years ago, but latterly Northampton has borne the palm, and perhaps there is no other town in the United Kingdom where so many of these birds are bred (and good ones, too), although it has had to lower it colours to towns of less importance within the past few years, but, for all that,

there is no better blood to be found to breed from than can be obtained within its precincts.

When you commence to breed Cinnamon birds, put together, the first year, two pairs of pure bred birds, without spot or blemish, and in no way related to each other; at the same time mate a good jonque Cinnamon cock with a well-bred yellow variegated Norwich Fancy hen, the latter possessing good colour, form, size, and quality, and not too heavily marked, or one pure green, if obtainable. Be sure that the Cinnamon bird used for this cross has been bred from self-coloured birds for at least three generations. From the produce of the last-named pair keep the richest coloured hen, of good size and feather, if not the second best in colour, provided she is best in other respects; a Cinnamon or Cinnamon variegated bird to be preferred. Second year: Keep the best birds bred from the two pairs of Cinnamons, and cross them together to the best of your judgment; one pair, however should be buff birds. Purchase a good buff Cinnamon cock of a different strain, and put him with one of the cross bred hens (jonque). Third year: Pair the produce from your pure Cinnamons together again, always keeping the best birds to breed from. These birds will be full cousins, but it is necessary to breed them a little akin occasionally, as it keeps the blood pure. Take a young cock, bred from two pure-bred buffs, and put with the best jonque hen bred from the other pair containing the Norwich cross. Fourth year: Introduce new blood by pairing a pure Cinnamon bird with the best bird bred from your own breed of Cinnamons, and another with the best bird from the other pair, which will now be almost pure again. The following year mate the produce from the two last named pairs, and you will find the colour perceptibly improved. Continue the same process, introducing the Norwich cross every third or fourth year; by this means you will vastly increase the colour of your birds without detracting from their other qualities.

Avoid breeding from pied birds as much as possible, but a single white feather, or even two, in the tail of a bird, if good in all other points, is not a serious objection; at the same time, it is commendable to avoid it as much as you can, as the defect is very likely to be perpetuated if too much use is made of birds

with a blemish of this kind. I have purposely confined my remarks to as few pairs of birds as I could, in order to elucidate the system of crossing herein recommended, so that I might be able to make it all the more easily understood; but I must not forget to point out to those who desire to climb the pinnacle of fame as breeders and exhibitors of canaries that it will be advisable to put double, or even treble the number of birds mentioned together if they wish to stand a reasonable chance of success as prize takers. Another injunction I think it desirable to give, and that is, do not attempt to breed too many varieties at the same time, for those who do so very rarely succeed in attaining eminence either as breeders or exhibitors.

To breed *Variegated* birds you must begin by crossing the Belgian and Cinnamon varieties together, or the Norwich Fancy and Cinnamon birds, whichever kind you desire to cultivate. The following year select the best and most evenly-marked young birds, the produce of the first cross, and mate them again with the Belgian or Norwich varieties, as the case may be. For further particulars in regard to crossing in order to obtain evenly-marked birds, I must refer you to the chapter upon evenly-marked Norwich Fancy canaries.

If you are desirous of breeding evenly-marked and *Crested* Cinnamon canaries, which are particularly pretty, you must couple a pure Cinnamon canary with a clear or grey-crested Norwich Fancy canary, or, presuming that you desire to possess shape in conjunction with the crest in preference to colour, then you must use a Manchester Coppy canary in place of the Norwich Fancy bird. From the produce of this cross you must keep the crested birds—those that please you most—and mate them again with plain-headed birds bred from crested strains, either Norwich Fancy or Coppies, whichever you require. By this means you will be able to propagate birds that will be likely to please you, and repay you for your trouble and outlay as well. Whenever the markings begin to get too light, take another dip of Cinnamon Fancy blood, which will speedily counterbalance the superfluity of the blood of the clear strains.

Some of these crosses are extremely handsome, and it must not be forgotten that the clear birds bred from them, with pink

or palish red eyes, are valuable for crossing to obtain hens for breeding canary and linnet mules.

CLASSES.—There are only two classes for *pure* Cinnamon canaries, viz., jonque and mealy; the former being more deep, intense, and brighter in colour than the latter variety; but the last-named is more largely endowed with that beautiful silvery-grey light which pervades the outer surface of the feathers, and which is so much prized by fanciers as an indication of high breeding and rare quality.

There are a great many varieties of Cinnamon *Variegated* birds; indeed, they are capable of being divided into the same number of classes as the marked Norwich Fancy birds; but they never are, as they are not nearly so popular at present as that world-renowned variety. Hitherto there have been but two classes set apart at any show for birds of this kind, and they are principally given under the designations of "variegated yellow Cinnamon" and "variegated buff Cinnamon." Now, what constitutes a variegated bird is simply a bird with a diversity of colours; consequently, both evenly and unevenly marked birds can compete together under this head, but the evenly-marked are sure to take precedence. The other varieties are generally to be found at shows which wind up their schedules with that most useful and needful class, the "Any other variety of canary," and in it they figure very prominently in most cases.

POINTS.—The *true* Cinnamon canary resembles in form and size the Norwich Fancy birds—perhaps, if anything, they are a little larger; that is, taking the general average of the two varieties. The distinguishing features in these birds are colour and form, but more particularly the former. The colour most prized is a deep rich mellow orange cinnamon, and this should be distributed as evenly as possible all over the bird. A light-coloured throat, belly, or rump, or even light-coloured thighs, are considered blemishes. Next in point of esteem to the birds just described are those of a yellowish tint; but avoid the green and the dusky, smoky smut-coloured birds, as they invariably possess bad blood. A stripy appearance is bad; the more nearly a bird looks all over one unbroken colour, the more prizable it is.

The best wing-markings of the *Variegated* birds are those which are perfectly even—that is to say, the same number of cinnamon feathers in each wing, and the corresponding feathers. The eye-markings should either encircle the eye completely or extend backward or forward, or both, from the centre of the eye, these being called "front" or "back centre" eye-markings, whichever they may happen to be; but those that envelope the eye and which are known as "spectacle" eye-markings, are most prized—a white feather intermixed with the dark feathers in the wings, or a dark feather with the clear feathers, is regarded as a fault. The wing coverlets, saddle and rump feathers, as well as those on the body of the bird, barring eye and wing markings, should all be perfectly clear externally. The underflue feathers about the vent frequently blow dark, and those on the thighs as well, but these are not considered serious blemishes. Neither are dark legs and beaks. I prefer a four-marked bird to a six-marked bird, as I do not consider a dark feather on each side of the tail an acquisition but rather the reverse.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.—The following standard will be found to give the relative value of the different points of merit, 100 points to be assumed as representing the highest excellence:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING CLEAR CINNAMON CANARIES.

	Points.
Colour, for depth, clearness, purity, richness of tone, brightness and regularity throughout	40
Quality and Sheen	20
Size, for length and substance	15
Condition and Feather	10
Contour and Carriage	8
Saddle	7
Total	100

STANDARD FOR JUDGING VARIEGATED CINNAMON CANARIES.

	Points.
Size, Contour, and Carriage	20
Wing-markings	25
Eye-markings	20
Colour	10
Condition and Quality	10
Saddle	5
Feathers	10
Total	100

CHAPTER XIII.

THE NORWICH FANCY.

ORIGIN.—The Norwich Fancy canaries doubtless owe their existence as a distinct variety to the town of Norwich, and have derived their origin, I believe, from crossing the London Fancy or Lizard canaries with the common stock; and by further judicious pairing, feeding, and careful moulting they have ultimately attained that exquisite colour for which they are so widely famed.

The method of breeding and rearing clear Norwich, in order to produce and retain their rich dazzling plumage throughout the show season, was held in such profound secrecy among the breeders and exhibitors in Norwich at one time that it was publicly asserted by a gentleman of position, then in the "fancy," that one hundred pounds would not extract the secret of obtaining the high colour in these birds and the genuine process of crossing them and moulting them in order to obtain perfection, at least so far as it was then known. Without doubt, there was a wonderful amount of freemasonry existing among the craft in Norwich only a few years ago, and they kept their secrets remarkably well; but the bubble burst at last, to the chagrin of many, I dare say, and the secret of high colour became common property.

VARIETIES.—Of the Norwich Fancy canaries there are the clears, the evenly marked, the ticked, the unevenly-marked, the green, and the crested varieties.

The *Clear* birds have hitherto been held in considerable

estimation by a great many fanciers, and more especially by ladies and amateurs, their gorgeous and brilliant plumage being their principal attraction; but now that it has become so extensively known that those vivid hues can be readily procured simply by administering cayenne pepper, mixed with egg and biscuits, and given as food during the period of moulting, it is a question whether this knowledge will not dispel the fascination that has hitherto hung around these birds. That it will very materially affect their value commercially I think there can be no shadow of a doubt. Meanwhile, I believe that the best bred birds will reap the greatest advantage from this novel *régime*, and that they will continue in a proportionate degree, according to breeding, to bear the palm over all their competitors of a more lowly origin, but it is just possible that I may be wrong in my assumption. However, apart from this, there can be little doubt now that, even prior to the discovery of this ingenious method of using cayenne, many of the most highly coloured specimens exhibited owed in a great measure their gaudy glistening colours to some particular mode of feeding, for it seems to have been long known to the principal breeders in Norwich that the exterior grandeur of these birds could be materially improved by giving them certain ingredients, mixed with their food and otherwise, during the moulting season, and numerous and various have been the devices resorted to for this purpose. Among other things which have been tried to influence and improve the colour in these birds are: Marigold flowers, cochineal, meadow saffron, annotto, beetroot, carrots, madder, turmeric, mustard seed, &c., but the whole of these ingredients appear to sink into utter insignificance, so far as effect is produced, when compared with the magical results which have been achieved by the use of the cayenne pepper. See chapter on "Moulting" (p. 126).

In addition to the nostrums already specified, and which are intended for internal use only, some unscrupulous persons have had the temerity to resort to external embellishments as well, and to accomplish their object they have applied such compounds as "Judson's Dyes" and similar preparations. Where these artifices have been detected, the perpetrators have been

in most instances justly exposed, and likewise excluded from competing at those shows where their impostures were brought to light.

The *Evenly-marked* variety of Norwich Fancy canaries is much admired and greatly prized by the "talent" or bird critics, and is also regarded by many people of taste and discernment as being superior in most respects to the much vaunted London Fancy variety. One decided advantage the Evenly-marked bird certainly has over the last-named breed is this: if it happens to shed one of its dark pinion feathers prematurely, it is reproduced by a *fac simile* of the lost feather; whereas, it is otherwise with a London Fancy canary. Another and still greater advantage is possessed by the Norwich birds, for they can be exhibited for several years in succession, if carefully moulted and preserved in good health and fine condition, whilst the London Fancies invariably lose their show plumage after the second moult.

Of all the different varieties of Norwich Fancy canaries, there are none more beautiful or interesting than the *Crested* birds, for they not only combine—when highly bred—the rich and brilliant plumage of the clear varieties, but the evenly-marked and crested classes possess the much admired wing-markings of the evenly-marked or variegated birds, and in addition to these advantages, they are adorned with an elegant ornament on their heads in the form of a crest; this is designated by some fanciers a "Top-not," by others a "Crown," a "Coppy," a "Toppin," and by a few a "Tassel."

There can be no doubt that the crest is an innovation among the Norwich Fancy canaries, and has doubtless been produced, in the first instance, by crossing with the ordinary or common crested canary, and the introduction of this extraneous blood, whilst imparting the coveted ornament, has greatly detracted from the glowing colours that the best specimens of these birds so largely inherit. This drawback might by judicious and careful crossing be overcome in a few years; but, unfortunately for experimentalists, there are more weighty considerations in breeding these birds than the mere attainment of brilliant plumage. Good crests are not produced easily, and unless they

are bred in a prescribed manner—which I shall point out presently—they soon deteriorate both in size, form, and colour.

TRIMMING.—There is an amazing amount of trickery carried on with marked birds by exhibitors whose conscientious scruples are so infinitesimal as in no way to disturb their equanimity, so that honest fanciers have but a very meagre chance of success, for those who are experienced manipulators in doctoring these birds can make a moderately good bird almost faultless. Eye-markings can be put on or enlarged as occasion requires by using a preparation of the nitrate of silver; foul wing and tail feathers are extracted and substituted by others. This is done by cutting the feathers short off through the quill, leaving a socket; corresponding feathers from other birds (not good enough to show) are extracted and fitted in, and secured with a little thin glue or solution of gum arabic. These and other similar devices are frequently resorted to, so that judges require to be on the alert; but many of these transformations are so skilfully and dexterously accomplished as to defy detection.

MARKING BIRDS.—Breeders of canaries on an extensive scale are sometimes necessitated to place birds of the same variety, but of distinct breeds, in a large flight cage together. When this happens, each bird should be marked in one or other of its wings, separately, and a record of such markings should be kept in the diary. Say, for example, all birds of No. 1 pair are marked with a notch made in one of the webs of the two first flight feathers of the left wing; the produce of No. 2 pair, two notches in each feather; those of No. 3 pair, three notches, and so on, making use of both wings if required. These marks are made with a pair of ordinary scissors; but, as much depends on being able to identify the different birds for crossing, the greatest care in the performance of this duty is necessary. Never resort to any part of the bird other than the wings for making these marks of identity. The tail feathers are so easily knocked out.

BREEDING.—In selecting stock to breed *Clear* Norwich from, you ought to procure a few superior birds; be sure to purchase them from well-established fanciers of good repute and integrity; by this means you are more likely to succeed in getting

such birds as you need. You will require both clear and marked birds to breed clear birds from, and rather heavily-marked birds too; indeed, one entirely green, if of good colour and quality, is by no means to be despised. I think I cannot do better than relate here the method of crossing pursued and recommended by one of the oldest, most experienced and successful breeders in Norwich, after which I will detail my own experience. The method recommended by the breeder referred to is as follows: First year: Put a clear yellow cock with a marked buff hen; be sure that she is bred from greens (pied birds) and not from "fancy"—by the last-mentioned term he explains that he means Lizard canaries—"because," says he, "Fancy must not be used except at the proper time, as I shall tell you." Second year: He recommends the young birds ("clears") to be crossed with clear birds from a second pair mated in precisely the same way as the first-named pair. Third year: He says, "Take the best clear birds bred from the last cross and pair with a clear bird bred from the 'Fancy,' and you will find the best birds are got from this cross;" he explains that, to obtain a bird such as he describes, you must put a Norwich Fancy and a Lizard canary together; from the produce of this pair you are to select those birds which are the least marked, and pair them with the Norwich Fancy again—I presume with clear birds of the last-named variety, but he does not say so. He adds, "In three years you will breed clears." "In selecting the final pair to breed from they should blow clear all over; the produce of this cross are only for show, and are of no use to breed from." He adds significantly, "No honest man would sell you birds bred thus to breed from again, nor would I buy a bird to cross with except I knew the man I bought it of." See "A Caution" to beginners in buying birds (p. 161).

My own system of breeding clear Norwich canaries is as follows: First year: Put a London Fancy and a Lizard canary together. At the same time mate two clear buff Norwich canaries, and likewise two clear jonques, or yellows; both the last-named pairs must blow clear all over, be close in feather, and full of quality. This makes three pairs of birds in all. To hope to be successful as an exhibitor, it would be neces-

sary to put together several more pairs on the same plan; but those I have selected are sufficient for me to illustrate the principle of crossing I advocate myself. Second year: Select a bird from each of the clear pairs of Norwich Fancy, and mate them with birds bred between the London Fancy and Lizard canaries. Always choose those nearest clear from this cross. Third year: Select the lightest marked birds, buff or yellow, from the last crosses, and mate again with clear Norwich Fancy birds bred from "double buffs" or "double yellows," but be sure, in the final cross, to mate them so that the ground colours of each are of an opposite hue to each other, *i.e.*, the buff or buff-marked birds must be put with clear yellows, and *vice versâ*. The result will be found satisfactory. The reason I advocate this cross is that birds so bred are greatly affected by cayenne and other foods for obtaining high colour.

To breed *Unevenly-marked* or *Variegated* Norwich canaries: Put a clear yellow and a yellow marked bird together; select a clear yellow bird from this cross, and mate it with a buff-marked bird bred from the last cross in breeding for clear birds, bred according to my own method. The produce of this cross will be found mostly very rich in colour. The reason alleged for breeding from the green varieties is that it strengthens the colour and makes it more lasting, and that for introducing the Lizard canary cross once in three years with the green birds is because it gives a softness to the feathers, and makes them have a silky appearance; but if you breed too long in with the "green" the feathers get long and rough.

The *Ticked* birds are obtained in breeding for clears, and likewise for marked birds. They are simply birds that are not quite clear in colour, but have a slight tick, speck, or mark on some part of their bodies. The points required are the same as those aimed at in breeding clear birds.

The *Green* variety is produced by crossing heavily marked birds together several times in succession, but two jonques (greens) should be put together, say, once in three years, to prevent the feathers from becoming too coarse.

There are probably no breeders of canaries that have so many difficulties to encounter in attaining their object as those who

pursue the somewhat tantalising occupation of breeding *Evenly-marked* birds; consequently those who have made up their minds to embark in this particular branch of bird-breeding must be fully prepared to meet with hopes kindled only to be blighted and disappointments innumerable. To breed evenly-marked Norwich canaries fit for exhibition, and in the most expeditious manner possible, it will be necessary, in the first place, to procure a few good evenly-marked birds to begin with, and in selecting them I would advise that birds with dark caps be avoided. It is absolutely necessary to obtain birds of distinct breeds, free from blood relationship, to begin with. Mate two "four-marked" birds together; both should be rather lightly-marked than otherwise, and one of them at least should have white or flesh-coloured legs, and clear under flue feathers (the small feathers next the skin); this pair, for the sake of distinction, I shall afterwards refer to as "No. 1." Next put another evenly-marked bird with a perfectly clear one, the latter being bred from a clear strain; it should be large in size, rich in colour, and of undoubted quality; this bird should be perfectly clear in colour all over, which fact must be ascertained by taking it in the hand and blowing back the feathers over and under the body; this pair I shall call "No. 2." The following year select the two best marked birds, the produce of No. 1 pair, and mate the heavier marked bird of the two with a clear bird, the produce of No. 2 pair, and the other with the lightest and most evenly marked bird, likewise bred from No. 2 pair. These pairs it will be necessary to designate "No. 3" and "No. 4." The following season select from the produce of No. 3 and No. 4 the best birds, and pair in the manner already pointed out; the young birds from the last named pairs will be first cousins, but this is just what is wanted, for breeding them in-and-in occasionally is one of the secrets for obtaining regularity in markings, but it must not be resorted to too frequently, or the birds will soon become small and scant in feather. To improve the colour in these birds and to preserve the markings, I have found it advantageous to cross with a London Fancy bird, say, once in three or four years; couple a bird of the last-named variety with a clear bird, bred by yourself from an evenly-marked strain, and keep the clearest birds, the

produce of this cross, or those only marked in the wings, to breed from. When the birds get all related through this system of crossing, it will be necessary to purchase, from time to time, as they are required, one or two good evenly-marked birds from some fancier who is reputed for breeding good birds of this variety to cross with them. If two evenly-marked birds are put together too often, the produce will be heavily marked; this must be regulated by resorting to clear birds bred from an evenly-marked strain. The great secret in obtaining good evenly-marked birds lies chiefly in the following rules: First, in breeding from birds which are evenly-marked, and clear birds the produce of an evenly-marked strain; secondly, in the process of consanguinity, or blood relationship; and thirdly, in avoiding all birds for breeding purposes which are irregularly marked; no matter how well they may be bred, all such birds must be sent to the "right about."

It will be seen by the foregoing remarks that I have confined myself to as few pairs as possible to elucidate the system of breeding I advocate; but ere you can hope to be successful in producing a few birds fit for competition, it will be necessary to breed from several pairs of birds, and if you persevere in following the instructions I have given, you will find in the course of three or four years that you will be able to produce the even markings with wonderful precision and regularity; but be very careful about the introduction of new blood, for if you happen to introduce a bird bred from irregularly marked birds, it will cause you a great amount of trouble and vexation. I might have advised you to put two clear birds, bred from No. 2 pair, to the two evenly-marked birds known as No. 1 the second season, but I have purposely avoided doing so for fear it might confuse beginners.

For breeding purposes, be sure to keep all the clear birds with eye-marks; these you can utilise where clear birds are required with greater advantage. You may likewise preserve all the birds with evenly-marked wings and one eye-mark, or birds with two eye-marks and one wing-mark, as all birds of this description are choice stock birds: birds marked on the head, neck, chest, or rather heavily in the tail, as well as all irregularly-

marked or pied birds, you must dispose of at the first opportunity. If you breed a bird with heavy wing markings, but slightly marked about the eyes, mate it with a bird that is clear in the body, with eye-markings only. If you have a bird with heavy eye-markings and lightly marked wings, pair such a bird with one that is marked in the wings only, and so on. With these instructions you only require experience to enable you to breed evenly-marked birds with undoubted success. Birds bred in this way for four or five years are very likely to produce evenly-marked mules; choose the clear or very lightly-marked birds for this purpose.

It will be necessary to pair two buff-marked birds together sometimes, or a buff-marked bird and a clear buff bird from an evenly-marked strain, as this tends not only to improve the size of the bird, but it increases the quantity of feathers, although, as a rule, you should breed from a jonque and mealy (yellow and buff).

If you desire to breed *Crested* Norwich canaries (old type) for exhibition, you must first procure a few good crested birds, either males or females. I prefer the former, as I find that the progeny more frequently favour the male parent than otherwise. They must in all cases be good specimens, or of undoubted high breeding, and you will find it advisable to claim a few prize winners at some of our best shows—the Crystal Palace at Sydenham is probably the best for this purpose. It is held usually in the month of February, which is, or ought to be, the end of the legitimate show season, and hence exhibitors are disposed to put a selling price upon them if they wish to part with them. If you cannot attend the show yourself, the Secretary—whom I have always found exceedingly obliging at all times—will claim for you such birds as you require, if you send him a P.O.O. in advance and instructions what to do. To an evenly-marked and crested cock you should put a clear, or very lightly-marked plain-headed hen, bred from a crested strain. You should purchase your hens from some respectable, well-known fancier, who has made his mark as a breeder of crested birds, to begin with; afterwards keep hens bred by yourself. If the cock or hen is a clear bird with a dark crest, then it ought to be

paired with a plain-headed bird of the opposite sex with a dark cap and wing markings, or a clear bird from a dark-crested strain; but by crossing the clear and marked birds together you have a chance of getting young birds of both varieties in the same nest. In order to improve the colour and quality of your birds it will be necessary for you to cross them occasionally with clear birds, not of the crested strain; in this case you should mate a marked and crested bird, or a clear bird with a dark crest, with one as evenly marked as you can procure of a high-coloured strain, for if you cross with clear birds you may expect to get more grey and clear crested young birds than dark-crested ones. Select from this cross the best crested and heaviest marked birds, and mate them with clear birds bred from a marked and crested strain; or, better still, if you can procure them, with clear bodies with dark caps. Whenever you breed birds of the description just named be sure to keep them; they are invaluable for breeding purposes, and far more difficult to procure than crested birds. To improve the evenly-marked and crested birds in their markings, you will be obliged to cross a clear bird with a dark crest, or one lightly wing-marked, with an evenly wing-marked bird of the plain evenly-marked strain (four marked), and if marked about the head it is so much the more to be preferred, but must be marked nowhere else; this should be done about once in three or four years. It is the regular custom to couple a jonque and mealy bird together (yellow and buff), but if you wish to breed large birds, close in feather, with large well-formed crests, you must frequently breed from two buffs or mealies, but be sure that one is crested, and the other crested bred; this must not be overdone, or the produce will be coarse. I sometimes select a bird nearly all green, with a crest, and cross it with a clear bird, as it improves the colour both of the body feathers and the crests. When you have succeeded in producing a race of birds with crests and markings to your liking, breed them together occasionally a little "sib" (consanguinity), say, first cousins, but be careful not to overdo it, or the produce will become small, weak, and puny. By the adoption of this method you will perpetuate the features you require.

If you pair two crested birds with each other, their progeny, as

a rule, will be bald at the back of the head, or have mop crests, which is a great disfigurement in either case. The majority of crested birds are more or less bald behind the crest; but by breeding two buffs together you will soon overcome this defect.

A crested bird can be identified when it is only a few days old by its peculiar formation of the head, and a very small smooth spot is generally visible on the top and at the back of the cranium. As soon as you discover that you have an unusually good crested bird, place it by itself as soon as it is able to feed on seed; and be sure that the cage in which you place it is provided with good sized holes to get its head through when feeding or drinking, or the crest will get chafed and disfigured. After a crested bird has moulted it should not be placed with another bird until the show season is over, because the other bird is pretty certain to pluck its crest, and the feathers will not grow again until the bird moults.

Before concluding this subject, I would strenuously advise those who are devoted to the Norwich Fancy canaries not to neglect the methods of crossing pointed out to improve the breed, as I am convinced that it will in the end prove more satisfactory than the newly-discovered system of feeding to produce high colour, and which, I think, must of necessity be attended with baneful results, as such a powerful stimulant as cayenne pepper cannot but be injurious to the health of canaries. See "The Influence of various Ingredients on the Colour of Canaries and their Hybrids" (p. 135).

CLASSES.—The clear Norwich canaries, as well as the evenly marked, the crested, the ticked, the green, and the unevenly marked, are each divided into two separate classes, *i.e.*, jonques and mealies.

In the *Clear* varieties there are the jonques and mealies, better known as yellows and buffs, but "orange" would be a much more appropriate and fitting name for the first-mentioned variety, and "orange mealies" for the latter, as these appellations are more truly descriptive of their real colours.

There are only two classes for *Evenly-marked* birds, which are arranged thus: Evenly marked yellow Norwich canaries and evenly-marked buff Norwich canaries, and these may consist of

"two-marked," "four-marked," or "six-marked" birds; for, with all or any of these markings, a bird is eligible for competition; all being entered in the same class, under one or other of the names just referred to.

The *Crested* canaries are divided into six classes as follows: Clear buff, clear yellow, evenly-marked buff, evenly-marked yellow, unevenly-marked buff and unevenly-marked yellow; although it is seldom that committees of shows set apart more than four, and more frequently only two classes, for these varieties, which is unsatisfactory alike to exhibitors and judges. The evenly-marked and crested birds are considered, by most fanciers, as the first of the crested varieties, and next to those the clear bodied and dark crested are held in the highest estimation.

POINTS.—In size, shape, and general appearance, the *Clear* and *Ticked* Norwich resemble the marked and crested varieties, the chief distinction being that those under consideration are quite plain; that is to say, destitute of ornament in the shape of even markings, crests, &c., but they ought to excel the other varieties in richness, depth, and brilliancy of colour. Despite the efforts that have been made by a few fanciers, who are deeply interested in these birds, to overrule this hitherto universally acknowledged chief feature, as the principal charm, and to set up a new theory of qualifications, it cannot succeed, for the merest tyro in the "fancy" knows quite well that colour has always been considered the ruling characteristic in these birds. This refers to the old type of crested Norwich. See chapter on the new type (p. 234).

The choicest specimens of the *Unevenly-marked* varieties are unquestionably those with perfectly oval caps and even wing markings; indeed, it is a matter of opinion as to whether birds marked in the manner described are not entitled to be considered evenly-marked. For my part, I contend that they are, for the simple reason that canaries only possess one head each, and hence an oval cap should be regarded as a regular marking; but as birds of this description are permitted to be exhibited in the unevenly-marked class, without complaint, I have no desire to disturb this arrangement. When the cap is well formed and the

wing-markings even, a bird of this sort presents a very attractive appearance, and has a host of admirers. Next to a bird marked as described, I should prefer one with dark cap, eye-markings, and wing-markings, or one with evenly-marked wings and eyes, and one dark feather in the tail, and next to these, a bird with one eye mark and evenly marked wing, Colour and quality, however, in this class of birds are indispensably requisite.

The principal features which entitle *Evenly-marked* Norwich canaries to the distinguished position which they hold are their gorgeous colours and regular and artistic markings, but more especially the latter, as they are most difficult to obtain, even to an approximation of the criterion of excellence.

The first and most important of the markings in the evenly-marked birds are those of the wings. A bird may have two, four, five, seven, or any similar number of dark feathers in each wing, or it may have five in one wing and seven in the other, or any similar or other number, and still be considered a legitimate candidate for this class, so long as the wings appear even to the unaided eye; but a bird so marked will show to disadvantage if shown against a bird with perfect wing markings—that is to say, if a judge is careful, and handles the birds when performing his judicial functions, which too many of them neglect to do. There are very few birds perfect in this respect, even among those which figure prominently as winners at our best shows. Some judges prefer a bird lightly marked in the wings; others, again, prefer them heavily marked rather than otherwise; but a bird with the first nine pinion feathers white, and the remaining nine, or the secondary pinions, black, corresponding exactly on each side, is, without doubt, the most perfect of all, and those nearest to this standard come next. Many birds, and birds of great merit, too, very frequently are possessed of a "mixed" wing, that is, one or two white feathers intermixed with the black ones or *vice versâ*; both are regarded as grave faults, but more particularly the latter, as it is more readily detected by the naked eye.

The next markings of importance are those of the eye. Some birds are pencilled in front of the eyes only, and others behind the eyes, whilst others again are pencilled both in front of and

behind the eyes, which is preferable to being marked on one side of each eye only; but the most approved and perfect eye-markings are those which encircle the eye completely, and these are known as "spectacle" eye-marks; they should not be either too large or too small, but proportionate with the size of the bird, and in keeping with the wing-markings; when well formed they ought to be elliptic, or egg-shaped.

Symmetry in marking is an important consideration, and one which is too frequently overlooked or ignored. The other recognised markings are one or two dark feathers on each side of the tail; but these must be the extreme outside feathers, and none others. Such markings may be regarded as doubtful acquisitions, although a few of the "old school" profess to cherish a liking for them. Nevertheless, there can be no question that a perfectly "four-marked" bird is the beau ideal of a bird of this variety—I mean a bird with good wing and eye markings, and a clear tail. "Two-marked" birds may be possessed of wing markings only, or of eye-markings only, with a clear body, but a bird having a clear body and a dark feather on each side of the tail only, is not so recognised. Many good judges prefer a bird with evenly-marked wings and a clear body to a "six-marked" bird, as they look upon the tail markings as a detraction and not as an embellishment, but those with eye-markings only are the least valued of all except for mule breeding.

It will be found, on closely examining an evenly-marked bird, that its eye-markings do not exactly correspond; at least, I never saw one with both eye-markings precisely alike, and I have scrutinised hundreds. Those birds with eye-markings most closely resembling each other are to be preferred. A good saddle is an indispensable requisite to an evenly-marked bird, and a point deserving of attentive consideration, as a finely formed, full, flowing saddle greatly enhances the appearance of the wing-markings. Some fanciers term evenly-marked wings V shaped, but I fail to see the force of this, as a V is much thicker on one side than the other, and therefore, a bird to be V wing-marked must have one wing more heavily-marked than the other, hence it would not be even.

With the exception of the markings already described, a bird of this variety should be clear in all other parts of the body, and it is desirable that it should be free from dark feathers in the saddle and coverlets, whether of wings or tail. The greater portion of marked birds are dark in their under-flue feathers, and others again are tinged on the thighs, vent and rump, and have dark legs and feet. These are only regarded as minor considerations: but where two birds are equal in merit in all other respects, the bird that possesses the fewest of these blemishes is undoubtedly entitled to bear the palm.

The evenly-marked Norwich canaries are about five inches and upwards in length. In form they resemble the original, or, as it is more frequently named, the common canary. They should have round, full heads; necks medium in length, and rather stout; bodies full and plump, with deep, broad, well-developed, and prominent chests; broad, well-filled backs, and substantial shoulders; legs rather short, but well set; carriage easy and commanding, with plenty of vivacity.

The *Crested* Norwich birds in size and general conformation resemble very closely the foregoing variety. The head should be round, broad, and full; the neck moderately long, and gradually increasing in thickness from the junction next the head to the shoulders; the body should be full and plump, and of a demi-semi-circular form from the throat to the vent; the back broad at the shoulders, tapering towards the tail, and slightly curved outwardly; the tail projecting in an obtuse manner from the body, although it is usually termed "straight" by fanciers. The chest should be deep, broad, and full. The body colour clear, bright, vivid and level throughout, except the shoulder blades, or pinion covers and rump, which are always more intense in colour in highly-bred birds—this is termed "quality" by the *cognoscenti*. The flights, tail feathers, and vents of all birds are invariably paler, but more so in some birds than in others. Closeness and firmness of feather are advantageous, and likewise denote quality; and a full well-formed circular saddle is a great acquisition, especially to a marked bird, for it shows the wing markings to much greater advantage, and makes them appear more angular, or, as it is generally termed,

"cleaner cut." The feathers should be silky in texture and appearance.

The crested birds are generally a little inferior in colour, when compared with the choicest specimens of the clear varieties, but it is amazing what amount of improvement has taken place in crested birds in this respect during the last few years.

The crest consists of a tuft of feathers which cover the upper portion or crown of the head, and it is formed in many respects like a flower, as it appears to converge to a point or centre, and the feathers overlap each other like the leaves or petals of a rose, or marigold, falling or drooping partly over the beak, eyes, and back part of the head of the bird, and this feature constitutes the chief point of beauty in this variety of canary. The crest varies in shape, size, and colour. There are the elliptic or oval crest, the round or circular crest, and the shield crest (so called from its resemblance in form to the escutcheon); the last is rounded in front, and as it extends backward from the centre or orifice it expands in breadth, and terminates in an almost horizontal line, except at the extreme outer edges, where two small elongated tufts of feathers (one on each side corresponding) project like two diminutive horns; these are termed by some "pheasants' ears." A well-formed crest of this description is exceedingly handsome, more particularly when it is adorned with a hood—that is, with a dark patch of feathers extending from behind the eyes of the bird, and down the back part of the neck for some distance, and partly over each side of it as well. In shape it is like a monk's cowl, and is frequently termed a "hood crest," and sometimes a "curtain crest," and when perfect in form it is considered by connoisseurs as the *chef-d'œuvre* of crests.

A good crest of any form should have a clearly defined but well filled centre, from which the feathers should fall gracefully in every direction over the head; it should likewise be well filled and closely packed, without a break or split in any part of it. It ought to come well over the beak, eyes, and base of the skull; the longer and thicker it is the better, provided it is well formed and well proportioned. It should be as flat as possible on the top, and have the appearance of having been

pressed with a flat iron. The colour most admired is dark green, approaching to black. Next to green comes grey or mottled, called by some fanciers "grizzled;" clear crests are held in the least esteem of all, so far as colour becomes a consideration. You cannot get a crest too dark, nor too large, provided it is well-formed and densely packed. The formation of the crest is the chief consideration, next size, and lastly, colour. It is not customary at shows to make separate classes for the different forms of crests; all are shown together, and each fancier has his opinion as to which he considers best.

I know from experience that the most difficult form of crest to produce in anything like perfection is the shield crest with the hood; and those who have made crested birds their particular study will acknowledge that this is by far the handsomest.

The *Evenly-marked and Crested* canaries look best, I always think, when they are not too lightly wing-marked. I prefer a bird with the first six or seven large flight feathers clear and the remainder dark. The darker and more defined they are, the more valuable the bird possessing them becomes. In a really first-class specimen of this variety none of the wing coverlets or saddle feathers should be dark, only the flights specified and the crest; a mixed wing is a fault, that is, a white feather intermixed with the dark ones, and this frequently happens. A self-coloured tail, whether dark or clear, and even a mixed tail, provided the dark feathers are at the outer edges of the tail, and correspond, is admissible, but a clear tail is without doubt most esteemed. A black feather or more on one side of the tail only, although the bird has evenly-marked wings, is considered a disqualification in an evenly-marked and crested class, and a bird so marked should be entered in the "unevenly-marked," or "any other variety" class. For my part, and many fanciers are of the same opinion, I should be disposed to admit a bird of this description into the evenly-marked class, and count three points against it for the defect, as it is birds of this stamp that tempt unscrupulous fanciers to tamper with them.

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE.—The following tables will be found to give accurate estimates of the relative points of merit

in the different varieties, 100 points to be regarded as a maximum of perfection:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING CLEAR NORWICH CANARIES.

	Points.
Colour, the principal considerations being vividness, clearness, and purity, the tint mostly esteemed being deep orange, and distributed evenly and regularly over the breast, head, vent, &c., of the bird	45
Quality, for extra brilliancy and sheen, particularly on the crown of the head, pinions, or shoulder blades and rump, and for having a fine silvery luminosity pervading the head, neck, breast, &c.	20
Size of birds, for length and substance	8
Condition and feathers	15
Contour and carriage	6
Saddle	6
Total	100

For the *Ticked* and *Green* varieties the same standard as that given for the clear birds will be found equally applicable; but with regard to the *Unevenly-marked* birds the markings, which form an interesting feature in this class, must be taken into consideration. I therefore give the following as a standard of excellence:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING UNEVENLY-MARKED NORWICH CANARIES.

	Points.
Markings	20
Colour	30
Quality	15
Size (length and substance)	8
Condition and feathers	15
Contour and carriage	6
Saddle	6
Total	100

The following is the Standard of Excellence for *Evenly-marked* Birds:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING EVENLY-MARKED NORWICH CANARIES.

	Points.
Colour—for richness, intensity, and regularity throughout	25
Marking and pencilling, 35 points, sub-divided thus:	
Wing-marking	20
Eye-marking	15
Saddle—for fulness, shape, and closeness	8
Condition and quality (meal or floss)	10
Size (length and substance of bird)	8
Feathers—for firmness and sheen	8
Contour and carriage	6
Total	100

The Standard of Excellence for *Crested* Norwich is as follows:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING CRESTED NORWICH CANARIES.

	Points.	
Crest 40 points, sub-divided as follows:		
Form and size of crest	30	
Colour of crest	7	
Centre of crest	8	
Total		45
Colour of bird—for depth, evenness, and brilliancy	10	
Wing-marking	10	
Condition and quality	10	
Feathers	10	
Contour and size of bird	10	
Saddle	5	
Total		55
Grand Total		100

All show birds ought to have good sound legs and feet; the wings ought not to overlap each other at the tips, nor droop from the shoulder like a "slip wing."

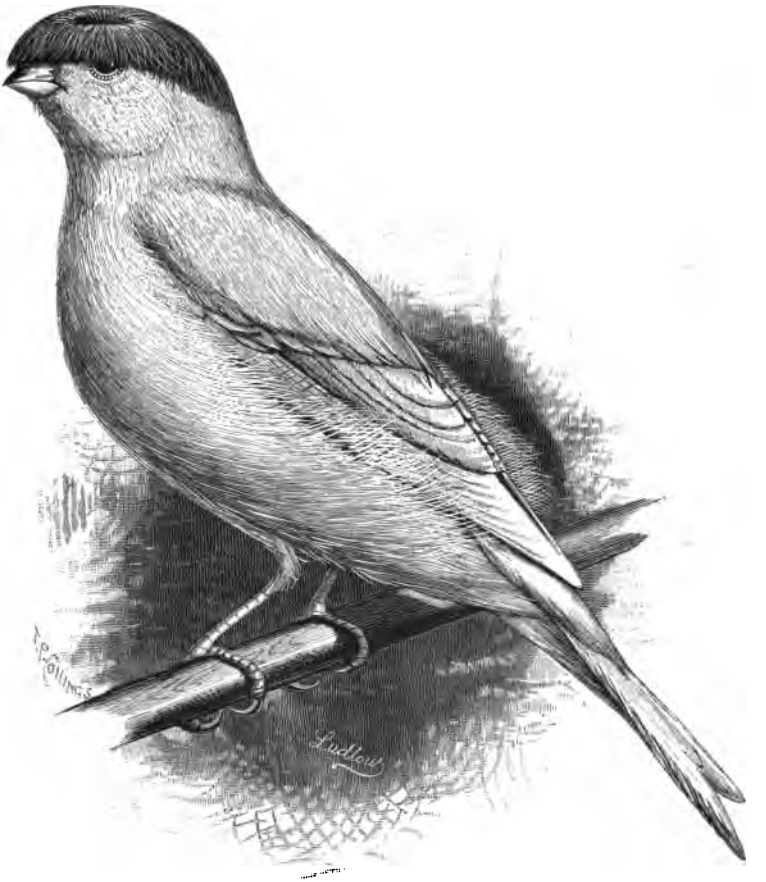
An otherwise good bird might, through an accident, lose a claw, or cross or droop its wings more than is natural. I do not think it would be right to disqualify it as a show bird on this account; but all such imperfections ought to be carefully looked for by judges, and, when discovered, should be fully considered and well weighed ere the awards are made, and for each defect so many points should be deducted from the qualities of the bird so maimed as he considered right and just to all parties concerned.

The standard for judging the clear and unevenly-marked *Crested* varieties, with the exception of the wing markings, is the same as that already given. At those shows where the three classes are merged in one it is for the committees to say whether the wing markings of the evenly-marked birds are to count, as judges, not being instructed to the contrary, should adhere to the standard.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE MODERN CRESTED NORWICH.

DURING the last seven years an entirely new variety of crested canaries has been created, and at present they bear the very questionable title of "Crested Norwich Canaries," although several lukewarm attempts have been made by a few fanciers to have them recognised by some more fitting and appropriate appellation. These birds have been produced by crossing the original and true type of crested Norwich Canaries with the Lancashire Coppies; and I believe I am not far from the truth when I say that the first attempt to introduce this cross, of course, in a surreptitious manner, was made at Northampton some ten years ago. Since the first introduction of the Coppy, which was done in a stealthy manner, breeders have become emboldened, and latterly no secret has been made of it, as judges instead of putting their veto upon it, have openly encouraged it, not only by awarding the whole of the prizes in the crested classes to birds of this type, but by lauding them when writing the accounts of the shows where they judged, and some going so far as to tell the fanciers that it was "a step in the right direction." Being thus encouraged, the breeders have gone on, step by step, introducing the Coppy from one generation to another, until some of the birds of the present day are so fully impregnated with that blood, that if it were not for the body markings and dark crests which Coppies never possess—and the cayenne feeding—it would be a difficult matter to distinguish some of these birds from genuine Coppies. I have seen specimens, yea, and success-



MODERN CRESTED NORWICH CANARY.

ful prize winners too, that in conformation of body and crest bore no resemblance whatever to the real, true type, the original. Crested Norwich birds and the last-mentioned variety, however good they may be in all points, have no chance whatever of taking prizes when competing against this modern variety. The breeders in Norwich, however, have no just cause of complaint against this comparatively recent innovation, as they themselves were among the first to impart this foreign admixture into the old breed, and some, if not the very best specimens of this new variety, have been produced in that town, although not necessarily exhibited by Norwich men. We have been behind the scenes and know where most of the best birds came from that have been exhibited by different fanciers since their first introduction to the public. I am free to admit that I consider the cross an immense and beneficial improvement in many respects, but I certainly would like to see them distinguished by a more appropriate and fitting title, and I imagine that ere long they will come under the more apt and truthful designation of Marked or Variegated Coppies, and it would doubtless be to the advantage of fanciers themselves if this were so, as no restraint would then be felt by either breeders or judges, and a still further improvement would doubtless be effected in their appearance and general contour. No one who is acquainted with the different varieties of these birds can doubt that the present appellation is entirely anomalous and utterly misleading.

To breed this variety successfully it is necessary to obtain Coppies of the very best type procurable, and cross them with Norwich birds of the best crested strains obtainable, but it will require years of judicious crossing to obtain birds as perfect as can be found at the present day, and in the hands of practical breeders only. Anyone desirous of experimenting on his own account, I would recommend to begin with crested Norwich hens, and plain-headed Lancashire Coppy cocks, always being careful to choose the latter birds short in tail and massive in body, with well-developed craniums. The Norwich hens should be evenly-marked, or green birds from an evenly-marked strain; be sure they are of good quality and type, and always procure

them from well-known breeders, not exhibitors, in all cases, as most of these people purchase their show birds from other fanciers more successful and experienced than themselves. Always keep the heaviest-marked birds, the greens, and those with dark caps and wing markings, to cross into the Coppy blood again, as the latter variety, being bred for purity of colour for so many generations, have a great influence on the colour of the cross breeds, and birds with clear or grizzled crests are not nearly so valuable as the dark crested birds.

I am very particular myself about having birds from an evenly-marked strain to begin with. Though no one can breed these birds with regularity, I endeavour as far as I possibly can to retain this blood, and I get my share of evenly-marked young ones.

I choose all my hens with great substance, and large broad heads, very full breasts, short legs and tails; in fact, Norwich in shape, and Coppies in substance, a sort of condensed Coppy. When I get them as large as I can, full of Coppy blood and the Norwich Fancy shape of body, I breed them together, and invariably choose two marked birds, as this establishes the markings, increases the green colour and intensifies it as well. The object is, in fact, to establish the points and markings already obtained I do this for two generations and then dip into the Coppy blood again, always choosing those birds which show the best blending of the two varieties and the nearest to the Norwich birds in contour and colour.

It is astonishing to observe how these crosses sport at times, some taking after the Coppies, and others entirely after the Norwich varieties, whilst others show a happy blending of both. The latter are the birds which should be selected for further experiments. Eschew long tails, and long thin bodies; all birds resembling the Yorkshire Fancy in shape should be discarded.

I have sometimes bred three distinct types of birds from the same parents, and no one could have believed, excepting those who know by experience, that these birds were related, much less brothers and sisters and reared in the same nest.

I have had specimens that were more than half-bred Coppies, that no one could have distinguished from the pure Norwich

breed, and others which would have passed for Coppies if they had been clear in colour, whilst the third would show the admixture of the two varieties thoroughly blended, and these are the birds that are most valuable.

Some birds show it in only two ways, size of body and form of crest—the true Norwich shape, and this is what breeders aim at. A true Norwich crest is broader at the back than it is at the front, and the best specimens are finished off at the back of the neck with a curtain or hood like a monk's cowl. Coppies never have this appendage, and most of the Coppy crosses are also destitute of this ornament and have a round or elliptic crest which appears clean cut all round, and which is strongly indicative of Coppy blood. It is no uncommon occurrence for two birds from the same nest to be exhibited in the same class, and the one to receive high honours and the other to be disqualified for showing "too much Coppy." Several instances of this kind are within my own personal knowledge; and I consider it the strongest argument than can be brought forward to show that the present designation of these birds is a misnomer.

A bird of this variety should be large in size, and should resemble the Norwich Fancy in shape, being full in the body and head, deep and broad in the chest, short in the legs, wide across the shoulders, and not too long in the tail. The crest, however, is by far the most important feature, and next to this, contour, colour, and quality of feather, and condition. The crest should be round, oval, or shield shaped, that is wider at the back than the front; the latter being the true Norwich type of crest.

Some fanciers, as well as judges, prefer one kind and some another. All of them look well if they are properly formed, and free from faults, and are well and artistically finished. I think, however, that those which are full and round in the front and square at the back with the cowl are the most telling, as they appear much larger than a round or oval crest finished close off at the back of the bird's head. A good crest of any form should be broad and long in the front, and come well over the eyes, drooping with regularity all round: some crests stand off and do not droop, and are in the form of a flat button; this

makes the crest look very wide. I do not despise a bird with a crest of this sort, if it is perfectly flat and well formed.

Those who have had much experience in breeding crested birds must know that it is quite as difficult to get a good well-finished back crest as it is to get a long broad-frontal crest; hence, when a bird is possessed of both these qualities, it must be of greater value than a bird which possesses only one of them. For my part, I breed both kinds, and can, therefore, readily appreciate the difference.

A bird shown by the Messrs. Mackley, of Norwich, in the year 1883, at Dudley, in the Evenly-marked class, where it obtained second prize, and at the Crystal Palace (in the Unevenly-marked class), where it obtained first prize, was a grand example of the type of crested birds I advocate, and unless he has been beaten since, is probably the best crested bird living, including every variety of crested Norwich canary. His crest is, in my opinion, simply perfection, and his back crest prodigious and exquisitely finished, and I consider it gives him an undoubted advantage over any bird not adorned with this appendage.

To obtain size of body and profusion of feather, breeding with two buff birds is much resorted to; but this should be done with care and judgment, as it is apt to produce coarseness of feather both on the body and crest of birds. Others, again, to enlarge and improve the size and form of the crests, put two crested birds together; and if these are not properly matched, the result is either a large mop crest, without quality or proper form, or it may result in a sparsity of crest; but when two crested birds are judiciously matched, a good crested bird may occasionally be bred in this way. If ever you breed from two crested birds, be sure to select two which are undoubtedly well bred but defficient in crest properties, one short in frontal crest, the other deficient in back or lateral crest, and keep the plain-heads bred in this way, and put to crested birds again, as this is a sure method of improving and enlarging the crests, but this, too, must be done with care and caution, or you will obtain birds with faulty crests.

A good crest must, in the first place, be adorned with a good

centre, distinct but closely filled in all round, appearing like the head of a small pin. It should be placed about the middle of the head of the bird, for, if placed too near the beak, it gives the appearance of a short and narrow frontal crest; and I have seen good birds spoiled through having the centre placed in this way; although it makes such birds to show a greater profusion of lateral crest; but a properly balanced crest is unquestionably the most prized; from this centre the feathers should radiate in a uniform manner, and be placed as close as they can be packed without the slightest appearance of a break in any form. The crest should lie quite flat to the head of the bird, and appear smooth and unruffled. It should also be broad and expansive, thick and solid looking, with a tendency to droop, giving it something of the appearance of a mushroom at the outer edges. A thin hairy looking crest is objectionable, however good it may be in other respects, and such crests are easily disarranged.

A flaw or opening in the front or at the side of a crest would be fatal to the chance of any bird on the show bench in good company; but there are a class of exhibitors who can patch up and trim faulty crests in a wonderful manner, and this is practised by some of them to a great extent; the loose feathers that have an aggravating and defiant method of standing erect, are cut off short, or if very few in number, are occasionally plucked out; a system of grooming is likewise had resort to; the bird is caught regularly every morning, and he is toileted like a baby; his crest is brushed with a soft tooth brush, dipped in water when necessary, and if this operation does not succeed in bringing the stray and wayward feathers to subjection, a mixture is used in the final preparation before the bird is exhibited; bandoline* is one of the compounds used, and a weak solution of gum and spirits of wine, diluted with water; gum arabic or gum mastic are preferred for this operation, but it must be used very weak, or it will be detected. It requires skill and practice to use these artifices properly: and I only mention them to put those unacquainted with such devices on their guard, as I have heard of amateurs claiming such "faked" birds at a show, and after

* A preparation for the hair.

CHAPTER XV.

THE LIZARD.

THIS very beautiful and unique variety of canary stands pre-eminent, in the estimation of nearly all true fanciers, among what may be considered the real English Fancy canaries. There is no means of tracing the origin of these birds, but they have been known and esteemed among fanciers in this country for a great many years, and I think there is little doubt that they are the real source from which some other known varieties have been derived. They are great favourites in some of the midland and northern counties of England, especially Lancashire and Nottinghamshire; and it is in these counties that the best specimens are usually bred, although the county of Durham has, within the past few years, produced specimens which have successfully competed against all comers.

TRIMMING.—Lizard canaries are more frequently tampered with than any other variety by unprincipled exhibitors, hence it behoves judges to exercise their utmost vigilance and circumspection in judging these birds. A bald face is artificially coloured, sometimes very dexterously; a small cap is enlarged and enriched in colour by the use of a Judson's dye or a strong solution of saffron; white flight or tail feathers are extracted, and corresponding but dark feathers drawn from other birds, are cleverly substituted for them; the tweezers are frequently brought into requisition to remove some tiny dark feathers from the cap, and when the pinion covers are intermixed with white,

the white feathers are skilfully clipped close off, and the legs and bills are often stained black; in fact, every Lizard sent to compete at an exhibition should be handled and minutely examined all over by the judge. If a wing or tail feather projects beyond the natural line, or falls short of it, examine it most particularly, for it is a suspicious circumstance; and be sure to see that none of the feathers have been cut or trimmed. When a judge discovers a bird that has been fraudulently tampered with, he should make the fact public, despite any entreaties that may be urged against his doing so. Those fanciers who are mean enough to perpetrate such barefaced deception cannot be too severely censured and condemned.

SHOW PLUMAGE.—Young Lizards in their nest feathers are devoid of spangles; but when they moult these are produced, and, when fully moulted, they are in full show plumage, and not afterwards. Every time a Lizard moults it becomes paler in colour, in the wings especially, and the colour sometimes runs. Particularly is this the case if a bird is out of health at the time of moulting. Lizards are known among Scotchmen as "macaronies."

BREEDING.—To breed good birds of this variety, you must exercise considerable care and discrimination in the selection of the stock; be sure that the ground colour and spangling are correct, as these are the chief considerations in selecting stock birds. A broken cap is the least objectionable feature in birds for breeding purposes; do not pair two broken-capped birds together, if you desire to breed good and true capped birds, but you may pair a broken-capped bird or an under-capped bird with one that is over-capped with advantage. At the same time, it is best to have both birds as nearly perfect in this respect as you can procure them, in order to breed birds fit for exhibition. I know that good capped birds are sometimes bred between a large capped bird and one with a mere apology for a cap, but birds so bred are sure to throw back to their progenitors, and for this reason I should discard them. Under no circumstances would I recommend any person to breed from a Lizard with white feathers in the wings or tail, nor from a bald-faced bird, nor from a bird with a decided tendency to

greenness with a peculiar metallic lustre pervading the outer surface of the feathers. It is the universal practice to breed gold and silver birds together, but it will be found a good plan to breed two silvers together occasionally, and to cross the produce of these with the golden-spangled birds. By this method you will improve the size, feathers, and quality, and get more substance, health, and vigour in the birds. Some people put two jonques together, and they sometimes produce birds that look like high-coloured silvers, and as such they have been shown; but they are easily known, for they are altogether destitute of that fine luminous appearance which all really good silver birds possess. They are simply bad yellows, or a more fitting title would be nondescripts. There is no advantage to be gained by this mode of crossing, consequently it should not be resorted to when it can be avoided. The majority of Lizard canaries are vicious and quarrelsome in their dispositions, the male birds especially, and a great many of them deliberately destroy their progeny as soon as they are hatched, whilst others eat the eggs as soon as they are deposited. It is necessary, therefore, to keep an observant eye upon their proceedings during the breeding season. The best remedy to apply to an egg-eater is to give him a couple of unsound eggs—birds' eggs, not fruitful, that have been sat upon for a fortnight previously.

To improve the cap and spangles, some of the principal and most successful breeders have had recourse to a cross with the London Fancy canary. The bird chosen for this purpose should be well bred, strong, and vigorous, and deficient, to some extent, in spangles. In three years, if the produce of the first cross is bred in with good Lizards, selected with care and judgment, a marked improvement in the chief characteristics will be observable, but the result will greatly depend on the birds selected for this purpose.

Lizard canaries are very difficult to breed sufficiently good in all points for exhibition purposes, and they occasionally breed young birds with foul feathers—white feathers—among their pinion coverlets, or in their wings or tails. When these appear at the shoulder blades or pinions, the bird is called "shelly

shouldered," meaning that it resembles a chaffinch, which is often called by bird-catchers the "shell apple"; and this is considered, as it unquestionably is, a great blemish; but clear flight or tail feathers are the most detrimental of all, and those fanciers who pride themselves upon breeding good Lizards invariably give all such ill-favoured progeny their quietus ere they number many days in the calendar of life. Were it not that this practice savours strongly of wanton cruelty, which is revolting to the better part of human nature, I would certainly have endorsed it, as I verily believe that it is the only method of effectually stamping out all remnants of impure blood, for as certain as such birds are reared to maturity so surely will some fancier be found to breed from them, and thereby perpetuate those imperfections which all right-thinking breeders strive to avoid.

CLASSES.—There are two varieties of these birds, viz., yellows and buffs (jonques and mealies), or, as they are more frequently designated, golden-spangled and silver-spangled Lizards. These are divided into four classes, as follows: Golden-spangled Lizards, silver-spangled Lizards, golden-spangled Lizards with broken caps, and silver-spangled Lizards with broken caps.

Twenty years ago and upwards there was a breed of Lizards known among fanciers by the name of "Blue Lizards." I have never seen but three of those magnificent birds, which I bought. It is seventeen or eighteen years since the last of these died, and I have never been able to procure another specimen of them, although I have used every effort to do so. I have been told by several very old fanciers that they were plentiful enough forty or fifty years ago; now they appear to be quite extinct. What a pity! They were totally different from the silver Lizards of the present day. The ground colour of these birds was a beautiful soft bluish grey, but decidedly blue in tint, and the spangles were particularly well defined and clear, and as white as newly-molten silver. I consider they were by far the handsomest of all the Lizard varieties.

POINTS.—The golden-spangled Lizard should be in its ground

or body colour a deep rich golden bronze green or fine old moss green, quite neutral in tint, and soft and somewhat velvety in appearance, with the green so subdued and blended with yellow, &c., as to lose that hard, harsh vividness, so peculiar to bad specimens of this variety. In fact, the ground colour of a good Lizard is somewhat difficult to describe accurately, and to imitate it correctly would require a combination of various colours in different proportions, such as green, yellow, sienna, umber, and black, with a slight tinge of red and blue, and it would probably prove a task of no mean difficulty to a practical and accomplished artist to represent it faithfully.

The silver Lizards are much lighter or greyer in colour than the golden birds; in other respects they should resemble each other very closely. The latter, however, are considered the greatest favourites with fanciers, and when good specimens and in fine condition they are most exquisitely beautiful, although it very frequently happens that the best capped birds are most deficient in spangles, and *vice versâ*.

The cap of a prize bird ought to be elliptic in form, and should commence at the top of the base of the upper mandible, and extend in a parallel line immediately over the top of each eye, leaving a slight mark above the eye like a pencil line, or slight eyebrow, and should terminate at the base of the skull. It is a most difficult matter to breed a Lizard with a perfect cap, or even an approximation to one. Some birds are over-capped, whilst others are considerably under-capped. Both are faults; but an over-capped bird, provided the cap does not extend too far below the line, is preferable to an under-capped bird. Some caps run in a line with the lower instead of the upper part of the upper mandible, and descend below the eye. This is a grave fault; and all birds possessing caps of this description are only fit for stock purposes. When the cap is formed from the lower portion of the bill, it makes the bird appear to have a white face; and a bird thus disfigured is termed "bald-faced." With the exception of white feathers in the wings and tail, this is probably one of the greatest defects a bird of this variety can possess. The cap is one of the essential qualifications in a good Lizard.

The flight and tail feathers of a Lizard, whether golden or silver spangled, should be black, as also the wing and tail coverts; and the more intense and brilliant they are the more valuable is the bird. But these feathers are all more or less fringed at the extreme outer edges with a golden or silvery hue, according to the variety of the bird; but neither the tail nor the flight feathers in the wings should be spangled in a show specimen. A bird may by accident shed a wing or tail feather, which they frequently do; and when they are reproduced they show the "half moon;" but this can in no wise be regarded as a disqualification, although it may to some extent be looked upon as a detraction, and might be considered as such in the event of two birds proving of equal merit in all other points. The throat, breast, sides of neck, belly, and vent of the bird should be as uniform in colour throughout as possible. Some birds are much lighter in colour at the sides of the belly near the thighs than they are on the breast, &c. This is a defect. The breast of a good bird is regularly spangled, although the spangles are so delicate that it requires a strong side light to see them distinctly. Some birds—and good birds, too—are striped with a darker shade of colour down the breast, but the less these stripes are observable the better. From the termination of the cap at the back of the head to the end of the saddle feathers the ground colour should be uniform, but darker than the breast and belly, as these feathers are shaded with black, and each of them should be clearly "mooned" or spangled round the end or bottom with yellow or buff (gold or silver), and the more distinct and well-defined these spangles are the more is the value of the bird enhanced. As the feathers upon the neck of a bird are much smaller in proportion to those which cover the back, the spangles, as a natural sequence, are much closer, and consequently they appear more numerous than they do upon the back of the bird, where the feathers are larger and the spangles more distinct. This gives the bird an appearance of being lighter in colour round the neck or collar, more especially in a silver-spangled bird, and, instead of being, as might be

supposed, a drawback, it adds greatly to its beauty, and is indicative of very high breeding and superior quality. The spangling should not be broken up or laced, but ought to appear perfectly distinct throughout, both in form and finish, and this is one of the greatest points of beauty and attraction in the Lizard canary. Over the body feathers there appears, in the golden-spangled Lizards, a sort of subdued golden shade or light, called by some fanciers the "crine," and in the silver-spangled birds it is of a fine silvery-grey hue, and adds much to their beauty; some birds are quite destitute of this luminosity—a sure indication of coarse breeding or bad blood.

The legs, feet, and bills are considered by most fanciers to look best when dark, but, for my part, I attach very little importance to this feature, and I regard it only as a secondary consideration, as I have almost invariably noticed that such birds as possess it naturally (for in too many cases it is artificially produced) are too green in their ground colour—and the ground colour is a speciality which ought to be regarded as a *sine quâ non* in an exhibition bird. The two most beautiful and perfect specimens of this variety of bird I ever saw had red or flesh-coloured legs and feet; in all other respects they were the nearest approximation to perfection that could be imagined.

The Lizard canaries are from 4¾in. to 5¼in. in length upon an average. The head should be rather large than otherwise, with an abundance of width between the eyes, and flattish on the crown; the beak rather stout and short; the neck thick, and inclined to be short rather than long; the breast broad, round, and full; the shoulders broad; the back wide, slightly curved outwardly; the tail should hang obtusely from the body; the ends of the wings should rest upon the base of the tail; the legs should be somewhat short; and the carriage of the bird easy, graceful, and semi-erect. The cap, colour, "crine" and spangling are the chief characteristics in birds of this variety.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.—The following is the standard, 100 points representing perfection:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING LIZARD CANARIES.

	Points.
Head and cap	20
Spangles	20
Ground colour	15
"Crine," or luminosity and quality	8
Size	7
Condition	7
Contour and carriage	6
Feathers, for quality and closeness	6
Wings and tail, for blackness in hue	6
Legs and feet	5
Total	100

The head must be full, broad, and flattish on the crown; the cap oval, clear, rich in colour, and well formed, and must not come below the eye; it ought to terminate in front at the top of the bill, and at the back at the base of the skull. The spangles must be clear, regular, and well defined. The colour must be rich, soft, and mellow, level throughout, and quite free from any decidedly green tinge.

TYPE.—The bird from which our illustration was taken was the property of Mr. T. W. Fairbrass, of Canterbury. It stood first in a class of fifteen at the Crystal Palace Show at Sydenham (1875), the majority of which had been successful competitors at other shows. He won with the most consummate ease, being vastly superior in all respects to any of his antagonists, and a thorough champion all over, his colour, cap, contour, and spangling being exquisitely grand, and almost perfect; the greatest fault observable was that he was rather too much striped down the sides of the abdomen. Mr. Fairbrass is probably one of the oldest and most extensive breeders of this greatly admired variety of canaries living, and a pretty successful exhibitor as well. Several prize winners in previous years have been bred from birds procured from his aviary by other fanciers. One of the most successful breeders and exhibitors of these birds is Mr. Robert Ritchie, of Darlington.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE LONDON FANCY.

BREEDERS.—These birds are rare, handsome, and costly, and somewhat tender and delicate in their constitutions. They are great favourites with many of the London fanciers, but owing to their want of stamina and vigour, combined with the exorbitant prices that are demanded for good specimens, they are not very popular with the "fancy" at large. Indeed, this breed at the present time may be considered as being in the hands of a select few. Mr. W. Brodrick, of Chudleigh; Mr. James Waller, of London; and Mr. Thomas Clark, of Sutton, in Surrey, are probably the chief and most successful breeders extant.

ORIGIN.—Although many of the admirers of this variety of canary regard them as a distinct breed, I am decidedly of opinion that they have originated from the Lizard canaries, and I know that a great number of thoroughly practical and experienced fanciers entertain the same idea as myself. Having propounded a theory, it is only right that I should give some reason for so doing. The title "London Fancy" implies that the breed is peculiar to, or originated in London, in the same manner as the "Norwich Fancy" doubtless had its origin in the town of Norwich, the "Scotch Fancy" in Scotland, and the "Yorkshire Fancy" in Yorkshire; and the bird not being indigenous, must necessarily have been manufactured. Indeed, it is a well-known fact that the latter varieties are produced by cross breeding, that is to say, by matching two or

more distinct varieties together, and thereby producing a new variety. Some people do not like the idea that any of their pets should be considered mongrels, but I contend that when once a variety is established whose individuality is so marked and distinguishable by certain peculiarities, and which can be reproduced at pleasure, that it is no longer deserving of the term mongrel; and I further contend that to produce a new variety of any kind, whether it be in dogs, pigeons, poultry, or canaries, is to bring about a result indicative of the highest art or science of breeding, and, therefore, is more worthy of commendation than condemnation. If my first proposition is conceded, I do not think that anyone will doubt that the Lizard canary is the most prominent cross to be found in these birds, as it is well known that a young London Fancy in its nest feather, if a good specimen, so closely resembles the young of the Lizards that none other than really experienced fanciers can distinguish the one variety from the other; in fact, I have had young Lizards in one cage and young London Fancies in another adjoining, and I have known many men who have bred canaries for several years, who were totally unable to say which were which. Another reason in support of my supposition that the London Fancy canaries have in the first instance been artificially produced is that the young birds vary very much in plumage in their nest feather, some being all dark except the cap, whilst others are often pied like a common variegated canary; these specimens are produced in the same nest, and you require to breed a goodly number ere you succeed in getting two or three birds sufficiently perfect to show, and that exclusive of all accidents. In further support of my theory, I will quote a few facts within my own knowledge, and which have tended greatly to confirm me in my opinion.

I once put a Lizard canary and a London Fancy together; the produce of this cross resembled bad Lizards. The next season I matched one of these birds with a clear Norwich canary; the result of this cross was, to all intents and purposes, well-bred Norwich canaries, but all were more or less marked—two slightly, whilst the third, a hen, was a beautiful buff, with evenly-marked wings and clear tail, no eye markings. I showed her in

an evenly-marked Norwich class twice, and she was very highly commended at one show and third prize at the other. When she moulted the next season her wing-markings disappeared, leaving nothing beyond a grizzly trace of their former loveliness. I coupled this hen with a ticked Norwich cock, and several of their produce were marked about the head and neck, but on moulting the marks vanished almost entirely. The colour of the young birds from the last cross was remarkable for its depth and richness of hue. I mention this circumstance to show that the markings in these birds disappeared in the same manner as the dark feathers do in the London Fancy variety, and were changed for a clear, or almost clear plumage.

An acquaintance of mine, several years ago, bred a nest of young birds between a London Fancy and a Lizard canary; the offspring of this cross he mated, one with a London Fancy and the other two with Lizards. He continued his experiments for four or five years, putting those bred from the Lizard cross with Lizards again, and those from the London Fancy cross with that breed again, so that in the end no trace of the cross breeding was discernible on either side; in fact, he always contended that it greatly improved both breeds. I am not so sure about the Lizards, although I know that some of the birds so bred distinguished themselves at some of our best shows; to my thinking, they were too light in body colour, and the spangling not so regular and fine in finish as a good Lizard ought to be. Another fact in confirmation of my theory, and I have done. I once purchased a good yellow Lizard cock from a noted breeder of these birds; he was about eighteen months old when I got him, and in fine feather. I bred from him several years in succession, and had him until he was eight years old, when he died; every time this bird moulted he became lighter and clearer in colour, until, at the age of seven years, he could hardly have been distinguished from a London Fancy bird at the age of six years; his ground colour was almost clear, and he looked as if he had been slightly dredged over with black pepper. These facts, I submit, speak volumes in support of the idea I entertain in regard to the origin of this wonderful and elegant variety of canary—the true London

Fancy. No doubt it required years of study and judicious crossing to bring them to perfection.

Were I a regular breeder of this variety of birds, I would not hesitate to cross them with a Lizard canary occasionally, say, once in five or seven years; if this is not done, I am afraid that the days of these lovely gems are numbered, and that they will soon become extinct, for already the in-and-in breeding is telling with painful effect upon their constitutions; in fact, to quote the exact words of an old fancier, addressed to me, in reference to that variety, not long ago, "I would not bother with them; they are all as rotten as blown pears" (from in-and-in breeding).

NEST FEATHER BIRDS.—London Fancy canaries in their first or nest feathers should resemble very closely the young of the Lizard canaries; they should appear dark all over, except their caps, which should be clear, but very few of them reach this criterion of excellence, many of them appearing irregularly marked or pied, but in any case the tail and the larger or flying feathers of the wings ought to be all black. When these birds moult the first time they shed all their feathers except those of the wings and tail, the process of moulting being observed first on each side of the breast. The new coat comes clear as the dark feathers disappear, and when thoroughly moulted the bodies of the birds appear in a rich bright, almost clear plumage, with dark wings and tails. They are then in their most perfect state as show birds, and never afterwards, as when they moult the following season they shed their tail and wing feathers, and these are reproduced almost clear, being merely grizzled in place of being black. The young of these birds, however, although bred from parents which have moulted clear, appear in the dark plumage in their nest feather, and undergo the same process as their parents did before them; this is the great and attractive feature or peculiarity of this particular variety of canaries.

BREEDING.—In breeding London Fancy canaries, it is customary to match a jonque and mealy bird together, but it will be found advantageous to breed from two mealies

occasionally, for by this plan you increase the size and substance of your birds, and it tends greatly to improve the feather, more particularly in firmness and fringe. It will detract slightly from the colour if resorted to too frequently, but this must be avoided.

These birds are not only difficult to breed in anything like perfection, but the greatest possible care is required in moulting them, and when moulted in preserving them intact; for if a tail or wing feather (flight feather) is prematurely shed or beaten out, it is certain to be reproduced clear or grizzled, and this circumstance alone would debar a bird from competing successfully at any show. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance to moult these birds in separate cages, and in some quiet corner of a room. The principal London breeders have cages made expressly for moulting these birds. They are a sort of box cage, being made of wood on all sides, with a wire front, but immediately behind this is placed a glass slide, which is seldom wholly withdrawn; a portion of the top of the cage, too, is made to fold back with hinges, like a door, and inside of this is fixed a small wired frame. This is used for supplying the occupant of the cage with fresh air. I do not advocate moulting birds in these boxed-in cages. I prefer an open wire cage, with a very thin calico cover made to fit over it and tie down with strings at the bottom, as it answers all the requirements of the first-named cage, with the additional advantage of furnishing the occupant with more ventilation and fresh air.

CLASSES.—There are only two classes of this variety of canary, viz., jonques and mealies (yellows and buffs).

POINTS.—The chief features in the London Fancy canaries are their deep, bright, luxuriant plumage, their beautiful black wing-markings and black tails, and the fine, soft, silky appearance of their feathers. The jonque birds should be almost orange in tint throughout the body feathers, with a silvery luminous appearance pervading the outer surface; but this appearance, which is commonly called the "meal," is more conspicuous upon the buff birds, or "mealies," as they are usually termed.

In size these birds vary from 4¾in. to 5½in. in length. The head should be large, and the cap broad and expansive, and very rich in colour and free from any admixture of grey, or spots of a dark colour; the neck rather short and thick; the chest broad and full; the back broad, and slightly curved outwardly; the legs short, and the position semi-erect. A great many of the London fanciers regard the body colour as of the first importance, and this is looked for more particularly on the crown of the head, or, as it is usually styled, the "cap;" also upon the breast and throat, which must be very fully developed, likewise upon the scapulars or shoulder blades, and the rump; the colour must be pure and brilliant, and as free from tinge or mottle as possible, and even and regular, more especially on the "cap" and breast; the wings and tails, too, are of great importance, and to produce them free from that dingy, dusky, grizzly-looking hue, is probably the most difficult task a breeder has to encounter, and hence I think that too little weight is frequently attached to this very important feature in a good bird. The large feathers in the wings, and also the tail feathers, should be as nearly jet black as they can be got, with a nice gloss upon them; they should be entirely free from grizzle; a good saddle, too, is a very decided advantage, and improves the appearance of a bird immensely.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.—The following standard gives the relative value of each point, one hundred being the maximum:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING LONDON FANCY CANARIES.

	Points.
Colour, for intensity, brilliancy and regularity, more particularly on head, breast, scapulars and rump	35
Wings and tail, for depth of tone and brightness of colour throughout, and also for formation	25
Saddle, for fulness, shape, and colour	10
Size of bird, length and stoutness	7
Contour and carriage	7
Quality and firmness of feather	7
Legs and underflue, for blackness	5
Throat, for expansiveness	4
Total	100

JUDGING.—In judging London Fancy canaries much care is needed, for they are a class of birds that can be wonderfully improved in the hands of skilful and unprincipled exhibitors.

The bird represented in our engraving is a fair specimen of the breed.

CHAPTER XVII.

ANY OTHER VARIETY OF CANARY.

DUTCH CANARIES.—This variety, once so popular among English fanciers, is now almost obsolete. It is probably in size the largest of all the canary tribes—indeed, they may be fairly considered as the giants of their race.

A good specimen of a Dutch Fancy canary, or, as they are sometimes inaptly termed, "Dutch Belgians," is a large handsome bird, with a large full handsomely formed head, a long straight, full neck, a well-shaped body of considerable length, good substantial shoulders, broad and massive, but not elevated like a Belgian Fancy bird, a fine deep prominent chest, a good stout waist, long, well-formed legs, and a long, compact, sweeping tail, with a bold, erect, and noble carriage. They are mostly very rough in feather on their bodies, and are often heavily frilled both on the breast and back, some of them to such an extent as to give them a sort of woolly appearance. They are a hardy, robust race of birds, and it seems to be a great pity that they have become so unpopular and neglected—indeed, so much so, that they have completely fallen into disregard, having been entirely superseded by the Belgian Fancy canaries and Lancashire Coppies, the latter having originated from this breed.

GREEN CANARIES.—The primitive type of the Canaria race is said to have been mostly green in colour; but there are now a great many different breeds of Green canaries, the result of cross-breeding by pairing birds of totally different and distinct

varieties together. The principal consideration in these birds is their colour. There are various shades of "green," but that most highly prized is the light, clear, pure green known as "grass green;" and a green canary, if a good specimen, should be as free as it can be obtained from dark stripes on the breast and back, and likewise from the cloudy, dusky, slate-coloured hue so commonly met with in the majority of birds of this class. Those obtained by crossing the Norwich Fancy and Lizard varieties together are very rich in colour; but the handsomest green birds I ever saw were bred between a jonque Lizard cock canary and a buff Cinnamon hen. Some fanciers think a great deal more of birds of this variety when they possess large size and good shape; and to obtain these points they cross them with the Belgian Fancy and other breeds distinguished for having these qualities in an eminent degree; but, nevertheless, colour is the first point of admiration, and it should be diffused with evenness and regularity over all parts of the bird. Light-coloured sides, throats, vents, and thighs are all faults of greater or less importance, although the last-named two are not very serious ones.

To breed good specimens of this variety I would recommend a first cross between a Lizard and a Cinnamon canary. Choose from this cross the best coloured and largest birds, and re-cross them with pure green or very heavily marked Norwich Fancy canaries. To improve the contour and increase the size of this variety of canaries I would advise a further cross with a green pied bird (strong in green), bred between a Belgian Fancy and a Cinnamon or a Cinnamon variegated canary, and by adhereing to these rules, and following up closely the re-crossing in the mode pointed out, and resorting, when necessary, to a little in-and-in breeding to establish those features most admired and sought to be obtained, a good and reliable breed can be permanently established.

Green canaries are divided into two classes, the Jonques and Mealies, although they are almost invariably shown together in one class.

The standard for judging Green canaries is as follows (100 to represent a perfect specimen):

STANDARD FOR JUDGING GREEN CANARIES.

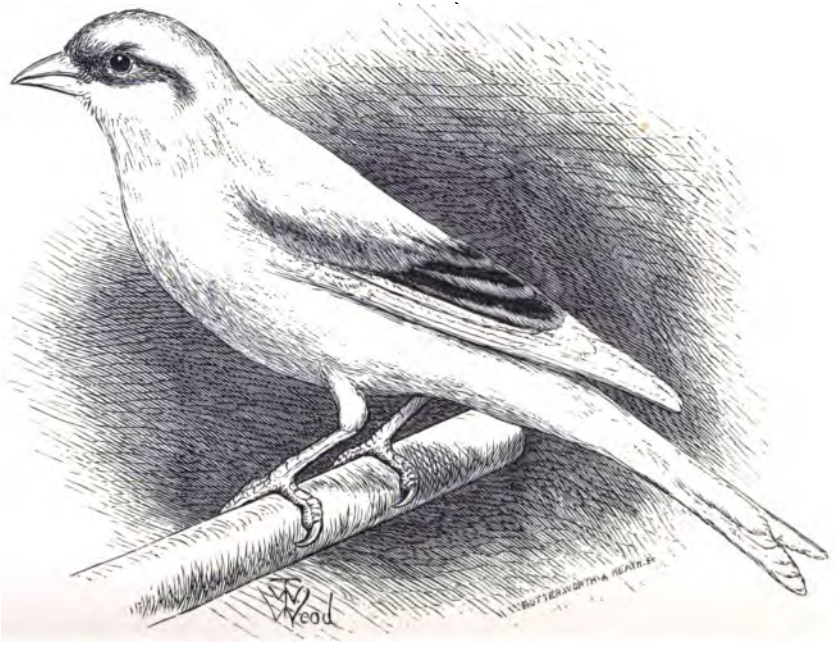
	Points.
Colour, for purity, richness, clearness, depth of tone, and regularity throughout	50
Quality and sheen	15
Size and contour	15
Condition and feather	15
Saddle	5
Total	100

GERMAN CANARIES.—These are the common type of canaries, and they are prized solely on account of their song. They are taught by the Germans (artisans chiefly) to imitate the songs of other birds and the notes of musical instruments, and are valued according to their capabilities as musicians. But the most valued of all are the variety known by the name of the Hartz Mountain Rollers, which are reared in Hanover and Saxony, in the neighbourhood of the Hartz Mountains. Their song is varied by a series of notes or sounds which they warble or roll forth with great fervour, and those which have the longest and sweetest trills, and which run or roll their notes to the greatest length, or frequently repeat the most admired portion of them, are the most highly prized, and bring the highest prices. We have known as much as 35s. to have been given for an exceptional bird of this kind. They are imported annually by most of the respectable dealers in London and other large towns, and vary in price from 5s. to 15s. each; rare specimens bring larger prices. Those birds that are intended to be instructed in the art of song are removed from their parents at an early age and reared by hand. Almost as soon as they begin to twitter they are placed under their instructors in an apartment far removed from the sound of any canary still in possession of its "natural wood notes wild."

When they are able to feed themselves they are placed in a room with some five or six others that are intended to be taught the same song or set of notes. It is customary to keep them in total darkness during the early hours of tuition, and sometimes it is found advisable to have recourse to hunger to make them attentive and subservient. Great patience and perseverance are needed to make them anything like proficient scholars in this

branch of education, and so powerful are their natural instincts that instances are on record where some of the best taught and most masterly songsters have been completely spoilt by being hung in close proximity for a few months to a bird that was an ardent exponent of his own natural lays. It must not be forgotten by those who delight in keeping canaries that have learnt the song of other birds, or to imitate the notes of any musical instrument, that they cease singing during the season for moulting, and at that time they are very apt to reject their artificial notes for the natural melody of their race; therefore it will be most prudent to remove them during this period beyond the sound and hearing of any other bird of their kind.

Cross Breeds.—Birds bred between the Lizard and Norwich Fancy canaries, or between the London Fancy and Belgian Fancy, or any other cross between separate and distinct varieties, are named cross breeds, but in some towns some of these crosses have distinguishing names given to them, as, for instance, some people call three-parts bred Lizard canaries "Spangle Backs." Then again, the birds frequently denominated "French Canaries" come within this category, as they are merely three-quarter bred Belgian Fancy canaries. None of these crosses, excepting the Cinnamon and variegated Cinnamon, are of any real intrinsic value, as they are used principally for experimental purposes only.



BUFF EVENLY-MARKED GOLDFINCH MULE.

CHAPTER XVIII.

CANARY MULES.

GOLDFINCH AND CANARY MULES.—Formerly these elegant and highly-prized hybrids were all shown in one class, under the general name of "Goldfinch and Canary mules," and the rule for judging them in those days was, to use the vernacular of that period, "nearest the canary," which is meant to signify a bird with the fewest dark feathers on its body. At the present day, however, there are several classes for these birds at most of our "All England" shows, and they are capable of the following divisions and sub-divisions: Clear or ticked yellow, clear or ticked buff, evenly-marked yellow, evenly-marked buff, unevenly-marked yellow, unevenly-marked buff, dark jonque, dark buff.

A goldfinch and canary mule with a perfectly clear body and a rich, deep broad flourish round the beak, is the rarest and most valuable of all the canary hybrids, more particularly if the under flue or small body feathers next the skin are clear as well, Next in estimation to a bird of this description is one very lightly ticked; in fact, the one most nearly resembling a clear bird—hence the term "nearest the canary." Size, colour, contour, feather, and condition are all points of merit in birds of this kind; but the aforenamed qualities far outweigh every other consideration in judging them. The evenly-marked variety is to my thinking, by far the handsomest, and it is without doubt, the most popular. The even markings, the rich orange band that surrounds the bill, commonly called the "flourish," the

colour, which should be clear, pure, and delicate in tint, and free from any slaty-coloured tinge, are among the chief points of merit in this class of mules.

The following Standard of Excellence for evenly-marked mules has been carefully made, each feature having been duly weighed and fully considered, and a percentage accorded to it separately, showing its relative value; 100 points is fixed as representing the highest excellence attainable:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING EVENLY-MARKED GOLDFINCH MULES.

	Points.
Head, beak, and flourish	10
Eye markings	15
Wing marking, saddle, and contour	20
Colour (to include the yellow bars on wings)	15
Size	5
Freedom from any dark tinge on cheeks, vent, rump and thighs	10
Clear underflue	10
Quality of feather and condition	10
Clear legs and feet	5
Total	100

A bird with even eye and wing markings, and a dark feather on each side of the tail, is considered a legitimate show bird in this class, and, in point of perfection, stands next to the "four pointed" birds.

The Standard of Excellence for Unevenly-marked Birds, the conditions being the same as those referred to in the last-named class, are as follows:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING UNEVENLY-MARKED GOLDFINCH MULES.

	Points.
Head, beak, and flourish	15
Colour	20
Size and contour	10
Markings	15
Saddle	5
Freedom from dark tinge on body feathers	10
Clear underflue	10
Quality and condition	10
Clear legs and feet	5
Total	100

In this class the markings are not nearly of so much impor-

tance as they are in the first named class—colour, size, and shape are weighty matters in judging these birds, and are allowed for accordingly. The markings to be preferred to all others are even wings and eyes, with a solitary dark feather on one side of the tail, or even wings and one eye marking only; next in point of merit to these we prefer a bird with evenly-marked wings and a small cap or spot on the head. A bird with eye-marks and a clear body should be shown as a ticked bird. When the ticked and unevenly marked birds are shown together in one class, the ticked birds are pretty sure to take precedence, unless the marked birds are extraordinarily good, and the ticked birds wanting in size, colour, and quality.

When hybrids between the goldfinch and canary can be procured resembling the one shown in our illustration, they may be considered both valuable and rare, and are very beautiful to look upon. The bird from which the cut was taken belonged to Mr. J. Doel, of Stonehouse, Devon. The eye-markings are not quite perfect in form, but in all other respects it was the bird *par excellence*, and very difficult to put aside, as it possessed good size, colour, form, and feather, and was in reality a gem.

Dark goldfinch mules are judged for size, colour, and contour principally, but rich dazzling colour, and more particularly a large fiery blaze round the beak and down the breast of the bird, are of the first importance.

The Standard of Excellence for Dark Goldfinch Mules is as under:

STANDARD FOR JUDGING DARK GOLDFINCH MULES.

	Points
Head, beak, and flourish	25
Body, colour, and breast	25
Size and contour	15
Quality of feathers	5
Condition	10
Saddle	5
Bloom or meal	10
Golden bars on wings, for extension and brilliancy in colour	5
Total	100

BROWN LINNET AND CANARY MULES.—There is seldom more than one class for these birds at any show. When this is the

case they are judged for the resemblance to a clear canary. Next to a bird of this sort comes an evenly-marked bird; the dark varieties are of very little value. These hybrids are more frequently shown in the classes for "any other variety of canary mules" than otherwise. Personally, I prefer an evenly-marked specimen, but have never seen more than one. In the dark birds, size, colour, form, and condition are the chief characteristics.

SISKIN AND CANARY MULES.—Siskin mules are, generally speaking, not very attractive birds to look at, and ninety-five out of every hundred of them resemble the siskin so much, particularly if bred from a small green canary hen, that it requires a thoroughly practised eye to discern wherein the difference lies. The one forming the subject of the engraving is quite an exceptional bird; and I never remember having seen one in which the canary colours predominated so strongly. This bird was the property of Mr. R. Hawman, of Middlesbrough, a well-known and esteemed fancier and successful exhibitor.

It is said that siskin and canary mules are the only hybrids which propagate their species, but I have never tried the experiment, and cannot say, therefore, whether this is so or not.

OTHER VARIETIES OF MULES.—There are, in addition to the varieties of canary mules already specified, those bred between the greenfinch and canary; but they are regarded as of little value, as they invariably favour the greenfinch very much, both in colour and marking, as well as form, they have a poor song, and are only shown in an "any other variety of mule" class; but whenever a good specimen of a brown linnet mule or a mule bred between a bullfinch and goldfinch, is shown against them, it invariably happens that one or other of the last-named varieties bears away the palm. Bechstein, in his book entitled "Cage and Chamber Birds," at page 286, mentions an instance where a friend of his (Dr. Jassay, of Frankfort-on-the-Maine) succeeded in producing mules between a bullfinch and canary, but I have never seen a well-authenticated specimen of this cross. I know the birds pair readily enough, but their eggs, so far as my experience goes, never prove fruitful. I have seen two birds, said to be hybrids

of this sort, but I am convinced that the one was a flecked canary with a malformed bill, and the other a mule between a canary and a greenfinch.

For further information on the subject of hybrids, see the chapter devoted to "Mule Breeding."

The bullfinch and brown or grey linnet will breed together, but their produce are rather *rarœ aves* than specimens of elegance. I have likewise seen a bird exhibited as a hybrid between a yellow-hammer and a canary. I examined it very carefully and could trace no characteristics of the last-mentioned species. It appeared to me to be a yellow-hammer pure and simple. I have never observed any amatory tendency to exist between the yellow-hammer and canary, but the reverse.

CHAPTER XIX.

WASHING CANARIES.

To the uninitiated, washing birds is not only a tedious but a difficult operation, and one not unfrequently attended with fatal results in the hands of inexperienced manipulators, but to those who have been regularly accustomed to prepare birds for exhibition, for any lengthened period, it becomes a matter of small concern, and a bird is toiletted and put through its ablutions without the least compunction or misgiving; but for all that it requires great care and skill to do it well and satisfactorily. If a bird is improperly washed it looks worse than it would do if it were moderately dirty.

Fanciers who live in suburban residences or in the country do not require to wash their birds so frequently for exhibition as those people who live in large over-grown towns where smoke and dust appear as though they were component parts of the atmosphere, so that clean, sprightly, gay-coloured birds get so begrimed and so besmeared with dirt, that they are barely recognisable a week after they have been washed. In all such cases as these, birds shown for colour chiefly, or even where colour forms an important consideration, must of necessity be washed for each show at which they are intended to be exhibited, otherwise the labour and expense incurred in sending them will be entirely thrown away, for unless a bird is as clean "as paint" it has a meagre chance of success.

A number of amateur fanciers nowadays rush headlong into the too prevalent practice of claiming prize birds, thinking, as

they no doubt do, that it is only necessary to secure a few birds of this stamp, and send them to a certain number of shows, when, according to their theory and calculations, they will be reimbursed for their outlay by obtaining prizes. But they appear to forget, or entirely ignore the fact that these birds require to be properly prepared for each essay; and if they are neglected the chances are that they will be inevitably overthrown, for it is astonishing what a change in position a slight difference in appearance will effect at times. But this is not to be so much wondered at after all, if people would only consider the great difficulties judges have to encounter, now and again, in discriminating between the relative qualities of two birds (especially in clears), so closely is the race for honours contested in some classes. To give an instance in point, I may relate that I have known a bird take prizes at every show it was sent to by one man, yet when it fell into the hands of another, and was sent to compete among the same birds that it had hitherto defeated, with the same judges officiating, it got nothing beyond a mere commendation, and in one instance was passed by without notice. I refer to these facts in order to show plainly the necessity for the closest attention and care in washing birds properly and thoroughly, and in preparing them in a systematic and artistic manner, without which it is a waste of time and money to attempt to show birds.

Before you begin to practise upon a bird it would be advisable, if an opportunity presented itself, to watch some experienced person perform the operation, as you would doubtless learn more readily in this way than in any other; but where it is not possible to do so, then it will be best to proceed in the following manner: First of all, supply yourself with a piece of good soap—I prefer old brown Windsor to all other kinds—two pieces of soft flannel, scrupulously clean; two or three nice soft cotton cloths, or old silk handerchiefs, without spot, stain, or tinge upon them; two large-sized basins—wash-basins are most suitable—two quart jugs, a large kettle full of boiling water, and a plentiful supply of pure cold water as well; a chair or two, and a stool made for a low seat. Having provided yourself with the foregoing, you may proceed

to catch the birds you intend to wash and put them in a cage altogether. If they quarrel, throw a cover over them; for, if they are show birds, which is generally presumed, they must not be permitted to pluck each other. Place them upon a table or some convenient spot near you; but, ere you begin to operate, you must provide yourself with another cage, which should be thoroughly cleaned out and washed, or well rubbed with a cloth, and the bottom of it sprinkled with silver sand; this is to put the birds in to get aired off. In addition to this, you will require a drying cage. Formerly I used a Belgian canary show cage, which I laid upon its side, with perches fixed crosswise inside of it, and I had it entirely covered externally with flannel, except the doorway, and firmly sewn all over it, with a long piece stitched at the hinge side of the door to fold over the opening cut out to allow the door to work when needed; this is a most essential and indispensable requisite, as the birds dry more rapidly in this way than in any other. Latterly, however, I have used a box which I contrived purposely for drying birds in, and it answers admirably; it is sixteen inches long, eight inches wide, and ten inches in depth; it is made with a solid wood bottom, the portion forming the body is framed with inch square laths, and then covered with flannel; one of the ends is done over with perforated zinc to admit the air, whilst the other has a framed glass door hung on hinges to let in light (the glass could be made to slide in a groove if need be), which enables the operator to see at a glance if all is right within and likewise how the occupants progress. Two perches are fixed inside by letting two upright miniature posts into the bottom; these are three inches in height, and cross pieces are fastened to them with small screws from the top. When the drying box is not being used it should be folded in two paper covers and kept in another box or calico bag to keep the dust from it.

I will now proceed to describe minutely the process of washing: First of all place the stool a short distance from the fire; stir the fire if necessary and make it a good one, and rake out all the dust from the bars. Having done this, place the drying-box or cage upon the stool, to get it thoroughly warmed

through; and spread the cotton cloths, or old silk handkerchief, over it so that they may get well warmed by the time they are required; pour out some hot water into one of the jugs and some cold into the other. Next wash your hands perfectly clean, and having poured some hot and cold water into one of the basins in such proportions as to leave it at about 75deg. to 85deg. temperature, commence to make it into a soap lather; and having folded the two pieces of flannel ready for use, rub some soap on to one of these also. In the next place, you must pour some clean water into the other basin, hot and cold, to about the same temperature. I presume that you have already doffed your coat and folded back your shirt sleeves over your elbow; you are now ready to begin. Take the bird you value least first, and place it in your left hand with its head from you; you must grasp it securely but not tightly; let it be as passive as possible, at the same time it must be held in such a way that it cannot by any possibility make its escape; let it lay somewhat loosely in your hand, and place your thumb or your forefinger over its neck, with sufficient pressure to hold it, but no more.

You must be careful to avoid any undue pressure upon any part of its body, and more particularly over the region of the heart or bowels. If a bird makes a sudden dash, and you feel conscious that it will elude your grasp, let it go; for if you attempt to prevent it you will in all likelihood either hurt it or pull out some of its wing or tail feathers. It is an easy matter to catch it again. There is a great art in handling a bird properly, and, although it is very simple when discovered, it requires a large amount of practice to enable any person to do it efficiently. You must not be timid or fumble when handling a bird, for birds, like horses, appear to know instinctively when they have a novice to deal with. Always remember that to have confidence in your own prowess is half the battle won; without it, how many men have failed to achieve feats which otherwise they might have accomplished easily enough!

Commence to wash the back of the bird first from the junction of the neck downwards; the wings next. Let your middle and lower fingers recede a little, and spread the wing of the bird over them and wash it thoroughly; after doing one

wing turn the bird round and do the other in like manner, and the tail as well. Some fanciers place the thighs of the bird they are operating upon between their fingers whilst thus engaged, but it is not advisable for a novice to attempt this. Next wash the head and neck, and do not be sparing with the soap lather; get well into the hollows and about the cheeks and sides of the neck; then turn the bird over and place your little finger over the lower part of its body, and begin to wash the throat, breast, body, &c. Do not be afraid of giving it a complete lathering; never heed it if it gets the soap in its eyes or a few mouthfuls of the lather, it will not be harmed thereby.

After you have finished this part of the programme, you must take the other flannel and go over the bird in the same way as before, with clean water. Never be afraid of giving it a good sousing with the pure liquid, for one of the principal secrets in washing birds is to get the soap completely out of the feathers. Having accomplished this part of the operation to your satisfaction, you must proceed to dry the bird. Take the long wing feathers, and pressing them gently together, draw them between your lips to bring out the wet; having done the wings, draw the tail through your mouth in the same way; then proceed to pat the bird as gently as you can with one of the warm dry cotton cloths or handkerchiefs, spread out the wings and tail as before, and dry them as well as you can. Having got out all the moisture you are able, roll the bird in one of the other dry cloths, leaving its head partly out, and hold it to the fire pretty closely for about three minutes, with your finger over the region of the heart very lightly. As soon as you feel the pulsation return naturally you may release the little prisoner, and place it in the drying cage. The whole of this operation must be performed as close to the fire as you can bear to be, for if a bird gets chilled it may die.

Birds become very much exhausted by this process, and lie panting for several minutes after they are admitted into the drying compartment; but you must not be alarmed thereby, for I may tell you that I have washed hundreds of birds for shows during the past twenty years, and never lost one myself.

It takes about five minutes to wash a bird, and twenty minutes to get it quite dry. You must not let them get too dry in the box or cage used for that purpose. As soon as you observe a bird to be about two-thirds dry, remove it to the airing-off cage. This cage should be placed upon a chair, not too far from the fire, with a light covering over it, and must be removed gradually as the birds get quite dry, to cool them. Lastly uncover the cage, and remove it to the far side of the room. An hour afterwards the birds may be returned to their domiciles. If the tail or wing feather should get twisted awry or curled up, give the bird some water to wash itself. If this does not remedy the fault, catch it, and put the feather or feathers so crumpled or ruffled in a little warm water, then draw them a few times gently between your finger and thumb, and they will soon resume their wonted appearance.

After you have washed one bird you will require to put more hot water into each basin to bring up the temperature to about 80deg., and this will need to be done after each operation. Spread the damp cloths over the drying cage each time after they have been used. Carefully examine the wing and tail feathers of your bird, and if any are found broken they should be withdrawn at once, but until they grow again, the bird will not be in a fit condition to show. There should be eighteen flying feathers in each wing and twelve in the tail; it takes six weeks for a feather to grow to its full length, but if one feather is drawn from the tail or the wing the bird may be shown as soon as the new feather becomes distinctly visible to the naked eye. I think it is best to wash all birds intended for exhibition two or three days before they are required to be sent off.

CHAPTER XX.

CANARY SOCIETIES, AND CLOSE AND OPEN SHOWS.

CANARY societies have existed is this country for a great number of years, and there are few towns, I should imagine, throughout the length and breadth of England at least, if not of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, that cannot boast of an institution of this sort. Formerly the whole of these societies were of a purely conservative character, being restricted not only to the towns in which they were held, but, so far as the exhibitions held in connection with them were concerned, they were conserved to the sole use and benefit of the members forming the society. The main objects in promoting these institutions were undoubtedly to bring together in close and friendly intercourse the principal breeders and fanciers of canaries, and to diffuse among them a spirit of brotherhood and friendly feeling, as well as to infuse a spirit of emulation for the advancement of the canary cause.

These societies hold their meetings usually at an inn or tavern, and have an arrangement with the proprietor or landlord to have a room appropriated for their especial use; this is invariably conceded without demur.

The legitimate meetings, viz., those set apart for the transaction of the society's business, are held monthly, in the case of a "close show society," but the members thereof, which consist chiefly of the working classes, are generally drawn every Saturday evening to the inn where these meetings are held, and there discuss freely all topics pertaining to their favourite

pastime; and this is, in my opinion, the only drawback to these and other kindred societies, as they are calculated to lead men into habits of intemperance; but where an "open" or "all England" show society exists this evil can be obviated almost entirely. As it is my intention to give all the details connected with the different systems of managing each, it is not necessary for me to offer any further remarks here on this part of the subject. One thing may be said in favour of the "close show societies," and that is, they are both instructive and entertaining, for the members, after the business of the meeting has been duly transacted, enter into a general conversation, the chief topic, as a matter of course, being canaries and their kindred species, and some member is almost invariably ready to relate something which he conceives to be new, or appeals to some older and more experienced member of the society for his opinion on some particular method of breeding, feeding, or what not, and new theories are often propounded in this way, and freely discussed for the edification of all present, and juveniles in the "fancy" can often gather a great deal of information which they need by this means. But for the fact of their being held at taverns, these meetings are highly favourable to the progress and well-being of this delightful and innocent recreation. At the end of the year a show is held in connection with each "close show" society, restricted to subscribing members only, and at its termination a supper is mostly held, and this is got up in the "landlord's best style" of course, and a convivial evening is spent.

To begin a society of this kind it is necessary, in the first place, for one or two of the most intelligent or prominent members of the "Fancy" to wait upon all the known lovers and admirers of the canary, and to inform them of the project, and to request their attendance at such a place or inn as may be considered most suitable and likely to meet the approval of the majority at least of those people who, it is anticipated, will become members and office bearers. Be sure that the inn is one of good repute, and in a respectable neighbourhood. If the landlord is a fancier of birds, so much the better, as

he will be able to understand the requirements of the association fully. In any case, you must state the circumstances in detail, and make some preliminary arrangements with him. After your first meeting you will be able to ascertain whether there is a reasonable prospect of establishing a society, and, if there is, then a private room, no doubt, will be readily granted to hold all special meetings in.

It will be found in nine cases out of ten that the first meeting will be badly attended, several fanciers prognosticating that it will be a failure; but as soon as ever it goes forth that it has been decided to form an institution of this sort they will all flock to the rendezvous to join it. A sufficient number of members having collected, some one must propose a chairman. The person chosen to fill this office should be fully acquainted with the duties required of him, and be able to explain the objects of the society, its aim, and how it is proposed to manage it, in a clear and intelligible way. After this has been done, propositions can be made, and the feasibility of the scheme fully discussed.

If it is decided to establish a society of this sort, then a secretary must be appointed, either permanently or *pro tem.*, and likewise a president, a treasurer, and a committee; but, having fixed upon a secretary, the other office bearers can be elected at a subsequent meeting. The president, secretary, and treasurer must act in conjunction with the committee, which should consist of not less than six members, exclusive of president, secretary, and treasurer; but this is not imperative.

The secretary must keep a diary in which he will record all the propositions that are brought forward by the different members, and will see that those which have been carried by a majority are acted upon. He will likewise form a code of rules, which he must hand to the president of the society, who will submit them at the first meeting after the association is fairly established, for the approval of its members. Each rule must be put to the meeting separately, and if an amendment is moved by any member, he will proceed to put such amendment to the meeting, and the secretary will record the ayes and noes for or against it. He will then put the

original rule, and, if the majority is in favour of it, it will remain unaltered, but if, on the contrary, the majority is in favour of the amendment, then the rule must be altered accordingly. After the rules have been fully discussed and approved, they should be printed, and each member supplied with a copy on payment of sixpence, to assist in defraying the expense of printing them.

The following will be found to embrace all that is required in a code of regulations for the purpose of conducting a society of this description in a satisfactory manner:

Rules and Regulations.

Rule 1. That this society shall be called the ——— Ornithological Society.

2. That it shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and a committee, to be chosen by a majority of the members composing the meetings, provided always that they form at least a quorum. The officers so elected to serve twelve calendar months, to be computed from the termination of the society's annual show in each year.

3. Five members are to constitute a quorum, and the meetings of the society are to take place on the first Thursday in each month at the place appointed, at eight o'clock in the evening, for the transaction of business.

4. The duties of the president or vice-president shall be to keep order, and to submit any proposition made by any member to the meeting for approval or rejection. No member to be allowed to address the meeting except through the president or vice-president, who shall rule him in or out of order, or whether his question is relevant or not. Any member infringing this rule to be fined sixpence, to go to the funds of the society. The vice-president to act only in the absence of the president.

5. The secretary must keep a diary or minute book, in which he will be required to record the business transactions of each meeting, and likewise to keep a debtor and creditor account of all receipts and disbursements made on behalf of the society.

6. The treasurer is to receive all moneys and pay all bills on behalf of the society, and to keep an account of the same, and in conjunction with the secretary to make out an annual balance sheet, to be submitted for the inspection and approval of the committee.

7. That the committee be empowered to transact the business of the society, and to hold meetings at other times than those specified, when they deem it expedient to do so, and in such cases it will be the duty of the secretary to acquaint each member of the committee, individually, of the day and hour at which such meeting will be held. Any member, being an office bearer, failing to attend either the regular or special meeting without giving a full and satisfactory reason for so doing, to be fined fourpence, the amount to go to the benefit of the society's general fund.

8. Any person desirous of becoming a member of this society must be proposed by one of its members, and the proposition duly seconded by another; he will

then be balloted for at the following meeting, and, if elected, he will have to pay the sum of two shillings and sixpence as an admission fee, to assist in defraying the expenses of the society.

9. Any person wishing to become an honorary member only, can do so on payment of the sum of five shillings annually; and in this capacity he will be permitted to attend the meetings of the society, and will be eligible to hold office, should he be elected; but he will not be allowed to exhibit birds at the shows of the society as a competitor.

10. All members of this society are to be resident in the town of or its environs.

11. Each member shall pay a subscription of sixpence monthly, which shall go towards a prize fund and for assisting to defray the expenses of the society.

12. The secretary shall, from time to time, receive such remuneration for his services as the committee think fit, but no other officer shall be paid for services rendered to the society, without the authority or sanction of three-fourths of the subscribing members.

13. All propositions made at any of the society's meetings to be disposed of on a show of hands, the result to be taken by the president or vice-president; and where a dispute arises a recount shall be taken by the secretary, which shall be final, unless there be an unexplained discrepancy between the counts, when a count out can be demanded by the proposer or seconder of a motion: in this case the members must divide.

14. That a show be held annually in connection with this society, to take place on the of in each year, and that any member, not being in arrears with his payments, such as fees, subscriptions, or fines, and who has conformed with the rules of this society in every particular, shall be entitled to exhibit birds.

15. No member will be allowed to exhibit any bird at any of the society's shows except such birds as have been bred by himself, and are his own *bonâ fide* property at the time of exhibition. Any member infringing this rule shall be expelled from the society, and shall forfeit all benefits accruing therefrom, whether in prize money or otherwise.

16. Any members desirous of competing for prizes at any of the society's shows must give due notice of their intention to do so to the secretary, at the first monthly meeting after the bird or birds intended to be entered attain the age of three weeks; and they will be required to furnish such information relative to such bird or birds as the secretary may deem necessary. All such notices shall be handed to the president, who will announce the same at the first meeting after their receipt. If the committee consider it expedient to appoint two or any other number of their body, as a deputation to visit the homes of any member or members intending to exhibit, for the purpose of noting more fully the particulars of the specimens announced for competition, it shall be competent for them to do so. The last night for receiving any entry to be fixed at the meeting held in the month of July. All birds entered must be under twelve months old.

17. Every member of this society who has entered a bird or birds for exhibition shall be required to sign a declaration, certifying that such bird or birds as entered by him are his property, and were bred by himself, such certificate to be made and handed to the secretary of the show not later than 10 a.m. on the morning of exhibition, and must be in the following form:

I, , do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that the bird (or birds) entered by me for competition at the Ornithological Society's Show, of which society I am a duly appointed member, was (or were) bred by myself, and is (or are) at this present time my *bonâ fide* property; and, furthermore, that the said bird (or birds) is (or are) under twelve months old.

Witness, Signed,

Any member making a false declaration, or exhibiting a bird or birds contrary to the spirit or intention of these rules, shall, on proof thereof, be expelled from this society, and shall forfeit all prize money and claims of every description against the society.

18. If any member is more than three months in arrear of payments of any kind he will be fined the sum of sixpence; and if this sum, together with all other arrears then due, be not paid to the secretary or treasurer on or before the following meeting night, then it shall be competent for the committee (unless a satisfactory reason can be assigned) to expel the said member without further consideration from the society.

19. Any person who has been expelled from this society for an infringement of any of its regulations shall not be eligible for re-election before the end of the current year in which the expulsion takes place.

20. The place of exhibition to be decided upon by the committee of management at least one month before a show takes place, and all members will be required to deliver their birds at or before 8.30 a.m. on the morning of the show to the person appointed to receive them. Every member who has entered a bird or birds for competition will be furnished with a card or label for each separate entry by the secretary, naming the class, variety of bird, and number of such entry; and he will be expected to affix these labels to the cages containing the birds answering such particulars prior to his delivering the specimens on the morning of the show. All birds must be shown in separate cages, and any birds entered in a wrong class will be excluded from competing. A card or list, containing the names and numbers of the different classes for which prizes will be awarded, must be hung up in the "club room" on the nights of each meeting after the schedule has been arranged and approved for the information of the members, and the secretary shall furnish to any member any further particulars he may reasonably require. No member will be permitted to enter the show room except those who are engaged in the arrangements until after the birds have been judged and the show is declared open. All members are to be admitted free of charge.

21. The judges are to be elected by a majority of the members of the society, at a meeting called specially for that purpose. No judge to be allowed to enter the show room until the arrangements are fully completed, and no member of the society will be permitted to be present during the time the judge or judges are performing their duties. If a judge desires to ask a question, the secretary, accompanied by a member of the society, will attend together to answer his query.

22. The judges will be empowered to withhold a prize where they have reason for suspecting that a bird has been fraudulently tampered with; but it will be their duty to bring such a case before the committee, who will decide thereon. If the bird belongs to a member of that body, he (the member) must retire during the inquiry.

23. All birds with clipped, drawn, or artificially coloured plumage, if detected, will be disqualified, and the owner of such bird shall forfeit all prize moneys, and

be expelled the society without further consideration, and any member who has been so expelled shall not be eligible for re-election.

24. The decisions of the judges shall be final, except in cases where a bird is found deficient in plumage or has been tampered with. All such cases shall be decided by the committee.

25. No joint partners will be allowed to become members as such; but where two persons have joined together to breed and exhibit birds, they must divide their stock equally, and enter as if they were separate fanciers.

26. The secretary will be authorised to order a sufficient number of prize cards, which will be affixed to the cages of the winning birds; but no commendation cards will be printed at the expense of the society.

27. The amount of prize money and number of prizes shall be arranged by the committee of management, due regard being had to the expenses incurred by the society, such expenses to be paid before the distribution of the prize money; and should any deficiency appear, it will be deducted from each successful competitor in a proportionate degree, according to the amount of prize money he has won.

28. It shall be competent for the committee, with not less than a quorum of its members present, to frame any bye-law to meet a case of emergency; and, further, the president shall, at any meeting of the society where an equal division of members has taken place in regard to any motion, be allowed to give a casting vote in addition to his own vote as a member of the society.

29. It shall be competent for any member, being an office bearer, to resign his office at any time by giving his written resignation to the secretary, and the members of the society, at the following meeting, shall proceed to appoint a substitute in his stead.

30. Any member who shall conduct himself in an unbecoming manner during any of the society's meetings, or who shall use intemperate and improper language to a brother member, or to any office bearer, judge, or other person, during the exhibition, or who shall smoke or annoy any member or other person visiting the exhibition, shall be fined a sum not exceeding two shillings and sixpence, and may be suspended from membership or expelled the society at the discretion of the committee.

31. That the exhibition shall be held for one or two days, as may be decided by a majority of the members of the society, and that the public be admitted on payment of a charge for admission to be fixed by the committee of management, the proceeds to be applied towards the liquidation of the society's expenses.

32. That it shall be competent for any member of this society to report to the secretary any case of supposed fraud, in bird transactions or otherwise, perpetrated by any of its members; and the secretary, on receipt of such complaint, shall call a meeting of the committee of management, who shall, if they deem fit, depute one or more members to investigate the charges and report the result. If there appear any just ground for the complaint, then the person so accused shall be called upon for an explanation, and if it prove unsatisfactory the committee shall have power to suspend or expel him, as they shall think proper; but if, on the contrary, the complaint should prove frivolous, then the member making such complaint shall be fined the sum of two and sixpence, and receive a public censure at the next meeting of the society.

33. This society shall not be dissolved so long as six members can be found who

are able and willing to undertake the duties and responsibilities required for the transaction and management of the business of the society.

34. At the termination of each exhibition in connection with this society a supper shall be held, and each member shall be admitted on payment of two shillings and sixpence, and non-members on payment of five shillings each. Prior to such meeting the secretary shall prepare a statement of the society's prospects, showing its progress or retrogression, as the case may be, such meeting and supper to take place within two weeks from the closing of the show. The minutes of all the meetings held throughout the year to be produced on this occasion, and such as may be considered necessary shall be read over to the members.

35. No alteration shall be made in any of the society's rules unless due notice thereof shall have been given previously to each member, and unless it takes place at a general meeting and be approved by a majority of the members then present; in all such cases a full quorum must be in attendance.

36. That these rules be printed, and each member supplied with a copy on payment of sixpence.

"Close" shows are being superseded rapidly by the "open" or "all England" shows. Nevertheless, they answer admirably for fostering among the members composing them a spirit of enterprise and zeal, as well as schools of instruction, and they are well adapted as a groundwork for promoting the establishment of "all England" show societies, and for preparing fanciers for more extended and enlightened views. Beside these advantages, they will be found an excellent means for teaching those connected with them how to conduct a show in a methodical and systematic manner, for without this knowledge confusion and disorder are certain to prevail; furthermore, they are likely to cherish a feeling of confidence among their members, which is very necessary in order to manage an "open" show with satisfaction and success.

OPEN SHOWS.—Many years ago, I used to look upon all "close" show societies as narrow and selfish in principle and upon these grounds I condemned them. About twenty-five years ago, in conjunction with one or two others, who were favourable to my views, I got up a show "open to all England." The prizes were of a liberal character, and the show was held in a public hall, in a large and prosperous town in the North of England. Music was introduced as a further attraction in order to gain public patronage, but the Fates were against us, and the speculation was a "losing game." So far as the number of birds entered for competition was

concerned, the show was successful enough, but the weather was wretched, for the rain came pelting down in torrents, at short intervals, during the whole time the exhibition was open, and consequently the attendance of the public was of the most meagre description possible. I acted as secretary, and the lesson which I learnt was not readily forgotten by me, nor by other individuals, I should imagine, who were likewise interested in the undertaking. However, after the lapse of a few more years, and with the infusion of "new blood" among us, we ventured to get up another upon a more extended scale, and this was attended with better success, and it continued to prosper for a little while; but through a too reckless expenditure and too liberal a programme, it ultimately proved a failure and its members had to "pay the piper." Since that time I have had a good deal of experience in getting up shows, and having been permitted to exercise my own discretion almost entirely in managing a new society, formed by myself, in a different town to the one previously referred to, and which has on every occasion been attended with brilliant success—a good balance having been left in hand after the conclusion of each show, after every expense was satisfactorily liquidated, and this, too, in the face of a liberal programme and no niggardly "cheeseparing" policy in the management—I will proceed, for the benefit of those fanciers who have repeatedly been called upon to put their hands in their pockets and pay large sums to make up the deficiencies caused by losses incurred by exhibitions of this sort, to detail fully the plan which I adopted, and which has been so far attended with beneficial and satisfactory results; and if the advice given be strictly followed, any show conducted with energy and determination will, I am convinced, be a success.

One of the principal requirements in commencing an "open" show is to get a good secretary, for much depends upon this functionary for the success or otherwise of the undertaking. What is required is a sober, steady, industrious, intelligent man, active in mind and body, of good address, bland and conciliatory manners, and capable of expressing

himself in a gentlemanly and becoming style, for it will be part of his duty to enter into correspondence with the *élit* of the town and neighbourhood where the show is about to take place, asking them for their patronage and support; and if they were to receive a rude or badly-constructed missive, badly written, it would be calculated to hinder rather than faciliate the object sought to be accomplished.

OFFICERS.—There is no necessity for a code of rules for a society of this description. In the first place, a few fanciers meet together and decide to have a show, to be "open to all England." They then confer together, and select some person whom they consider most suitable to fill the office of secretary. One or two such individuals are usually to be found in most towns of any importance; but they are not always willing to act in that capacity, for it is both a laborious and an unthankful office. However, if they are of an enthusiastic temperament and are in good health, they rarely refuse when pressed, and more particularly if they are flattered a little, for all men are more or less vain enough to show a little weakness in this direction; and, if a man is not naturally an enthusiast, then he is unsuited for such an occupation. A secretary having been duly appointed and a day and place fixed to hold a meeting, it will be his duty to send a written notice, or call upon those fanciers personally whom he considers most capable of assisting him in carrying out the project. Halfpenny post-cards will be found exceedingly useful for giving notice to the office bearers whenever the secretary thinks it desirable to consult them upon any subject on which their advice appears to him necessary.

It is important that a respectable hotel should be selected for the purpose of holding meetings, &c., and not a low public-house, as is sometimes the case.

The next consideration of moment is to fix upon a president, and afterwards a vice-president. The office of president is simply honorary, but it is most desirable to have a gentleman of affluence and position, well known and highly esteemed to fill it, for obvious reasons. Having decided upon some

one with the requisite qualifications resident in the town, or closely adjacent thereto, where the exhibition is about to take place, one or two influential members who are interested in its welfare should be deputed to wait upon this personage and explain the matter to him, and endeavour to obtain his consent to undertake the appointment, or the secretary could write to him something after this fashion:

Sir (*that is, if he is an untitled gentleman, but if titled, then address according to his title*),—I am directed by the committee of the ——— Ornithological Association to inform you that, at a meeting of its members, held in the ——— Hotel on the —— inst., you were unanimously elected to the office of president of the aforenamed society. I may inform you that it is merely a post of honour, and does not entail any service of any description. If you will kindly inform me at your earliest convenience whether it is agreeable to you to accept the office, I shall feel greatly indebted for your kindness.—I have, &c., your obedient servant,

To C. London, Esq. N. N., Hon. Sec.

Botheram, Sept. ——, 187—.

Having met with a suitable president, it will behove you in the next place to appoint a vice-president, or chairman; a man holding a good position in society, and one likely to be esteemed and respected, so that he will have no difficulty in maintaining order—an essential consideration at all times. He must be acquainted with the duties which will devolve upon him. Having secured the services of some one likely to fill this office satisfactorily, a treasurer must be chosen. I hardly need point out, I should imagine, that it is desirable to have a highly respectable and thoroughly trustworthy person to fill this important office. Beyond these officers all that is needed is a committee of management, consisting of six or eight fanciers, men of good repute and respectability. Do not have more, for there is an old saying, which is as true as it is ancient, that "Too many cooks spoil the broth." These preliminary arrangements completed, a list must be compiled, which should include all the ladies and gentlemen in your town and district who are likely to become patrons, which means, of course, subscribers.

PATRONS.—I have always found the aristocracy of this country willing to lend a helping hand to their fellow men to carry out an object of this kind; at least, I have found

but few exceptions to this rule, either in England or Scotland (I have never tried Ireland or Wales), among that class of people who are justly entitled to rank among the nobility of our land—the great "Upper Ten"—and these exceptions are mostly either eccentric or crotchety individuals, but more frequently parvenus.

The plan I adopt in asking for patronage and subscriptions is to send letters, and I think it by far the best, although it entails a good deal of labour upon the secretary. The following is a specimen of an application of this kind (presuming the person applied to to be a peer of the realm):

B——, Sept., 187—.

My Lord,—At a meeting of the committee of the ——— Ornithological Association, held in the K——A——Hotel on the—inst., it was resolved to hold an exhibition in or about the month of November next in connection with this society, and I am directed to communicate this fact to your lordship, and to ask for your lordship's patronage and support, which would be cordially received and highly esteemed by its members. The president of the association is C. L., Esq., and the treasurer O.P., Esq. An early reply from your lordship would be esteemed an especial favour.—I am, my lord, your lordship's most obedient servant,

N. N., Hon. Sec.

To the Rt. Hon. Lord H——.

It is hardly necessary for me to point out that it is advantageous to get as many patrons as possible, for the success of the undertaking depends very much upon this extraneous aid, as few patrons will subscribe less than a guinea, and none less than half a guinea, whilst some will give two guineas; in one case I knew three to be given, but this is quite exceptional, the rule being one guinea. Besides the acknowledged aristocracy resident in a town and neighbourhood, if a corporate body exists, the patronage of the mayor, sheriff, and other official dignitaries should be secured if possible. This is best done by a select deputation waiting upon them personally. Two or more members should likewise be chosen to wait upon the principal tradesmen and shopkeepers resident in the town where the show is held to solicit subscriptions. All patrons and subscribers of half a guniea and upwards must be furnished with a family ticket—*i.e.*, a ticket to admit the entire household, and to remain in force during the whole time the show is open. These tickets must be printed specially for the occasion.

MEETINGS—GENERAL BUSINESS.—The first meeting should be held six or eight weeks prior to the time fixed upon to hold the show. Four or five, or six meetings at most, will suffice to complete the arrangements. Sixteen or eighteen days will probably elapse between the first and second meetings, unless the secretary has received replies from all the ladies and gentlemen he has written to on the subject. If he fails to receive an answer from anyone within fourteen days, he may safely conclude either that his communication has been overlooked, forgotten, or ignored, or that the person written to is absent from home. It will be advisable under these circumstances to write a polite note to the absentee, calling attention to his former letter; but this will seldom happen, for with one or two exceptions I have always received a prompt, and, I am happy to say, satisfactory reply to my applications in less than ten days, and, in most cases, in less than a week. Until you are in receipt of these replies, and can form some estimate of the probable amount of aid that you are likely to derive from this source, it will not be prudent to issue a programme, for the arrangement of the latter must be governed in a great measure by the result of your success in obtaining subscriptions. It must not be forgotten, when a reply is received announcing that the writer will be glad to become a patron of the society, or a letter inclosing a subscription, to send a suitable acknowledgment thanking the donor on behalf of the association.

Among other things, the secretary must supply himself with a diary, in which he will note the day and hour of each meeting, and record therein the names of all members present and absent on each occasion; he will likewise detail fully all the resolutions and other matters of business transacted at each meeting. The minutes of a former meeting must always be read over as a preliminary proceeding at the one immediately subsequent thereto.

Although it is quite unnecessary to frame a code of rules for conducting a society of this description, it should be tacitly understood by every person holding office that, in the event of a deficiency arising, each member is personally responsible

to pay an equal share with his *confrères* to make up the loss. This responsibility gives an impetus to the whole machinery, as every member is interested in promoting the success of the institution.

TICKETS.—The plan to be adopted is to have a quantity of tickets of admission printed, in different colours, so as to represent at a glance the different prices. For subscribers of 10s. 6d. and upwards I use white enamelled cards, with an ornamental margin, and the words "Family Season Ticket" and the year printed upon them in ornamental type. For single admission tickets of 1s. value I use an orange ground with the words "Admission, 1s., 188—," and have a plain ruled line below, on which I can sign my name. For 6d. single admission tickets I generally have a green ground, but otherwise as those just described, except the amount, &c., and in addition to the words mentioned, I have the name of the society printed on them as well. To each member of the committee I give so many of those tickets, having previously subscribed my name or initials, and I debit him with the number and amount. I likewise furnish penny memorandum books, and ask them, severally, to obtain all the subscriptions they can, instructing them at the same time that they are at liberty to furnish any subscriber to the amount of his or her subscription with these tickets. To every patron of the show I send a family season ticket, whether they choose to subscribe or not; but those who omit to do so are not asked for their patronage on any subsequent occasion. I think the plan of issuing tickets a good one, as it affords those members who are timid a good opportunity of introducing the subject at any rate, and it makes them feel more independent—it gives them an opportunity of selling some tickets if they are too modest or bashful to crave a donation. From £6 to £10 should be realised in this way in a town with a population of from twelve to fourteen thousand inhabitants, and of course an increase in proportion to the greater population in larger towns, if this plan is vigorously prosecuted.

EXPENSES.—A schedule of prizes ought to be framed in accordance with the amount of subscriptions received and the prospects of the association.

To get up a show in a decent and praiseworthy manner will cost from £40 upwards. The following comprise the principal items of expenditure: Prize moneys (say, £20), use of hall for exhibition purposes (say, £4, this to include gas, fires, &c.), two men (two days at 5s. per day) to attend the birds, including feeding and giving them water to drink, &c., £1; two men (two days at 5s. each) to collect money taken at door, and to check tickets, &c., £1; judges' fees, £2 2s.; travelling expenses, paid to judges and hotel bill for same, £2; printing, £5; postage stamps, stationery, and sundries, £1 15s.; advertising, £1; conveyance for taking birds from railway station to show room and back to station, 8s.; professional packers to pack birds, 15s.; amounting in all to £40. And this is a moderate bill of costs for a respectable show. The printing is the heaviest item, but I like everything connected with this department well done, as it reflects credit upon the management, and is, I imagine, a sort of credential by which the respectability of a society of this sort is measured; bad paper, bad printing, and bad type, are all emblematic of vulgarity, parsimony, and bad taste—at least, I think so.

SCHEDULES.—It will be found a tolerably safe plan in arranging a schedule of prizes for a bird show to keep the amount of prize money a few pounds within the sum total received in the shape of subscriptions. To meet an expenditure of £40, which we will select merely as an example, £20 should be realised from the patrons alone and £5 more by donations from the public. The entrance fees may be estimated at £13, the charges for admissions at the doors £6, the sale of tickets by members £1, sale of catalogues and commission charged on the sale of birds £1, total £46—which would leave a balance in the hands of the treasurer for the following year of £6, and this may be considered as a very modest estimate indeed, as, in an ordinary way, the subscriptions, as well as the entrance fees, and takings at the doors, should

exceed the amounts just mentioned, say, in any town with a population of 14,000 inhabitants, but I prefer to be under rather than over the mark in my calculations. We will presume that a schedule of prizes has been submitted to the committee for approval by the secretary and sanctioned, that a president and vice-president have been duly elected, and the place of exhibition fixed upon; that the manager of the hall or other building has been seen, and the days when it will be vacant ascertained, with the terms for three days, for it must be taken for the day prior to the days of exhibition to the public. The regulations must state that all birds are to be at the place of exhibition on that day, for it takes a long time to arrange all the classes properly, and this should be done and the birds carefully attended to the night before they are to judged. By this arrangement the judges can begin their duties as soon as it is light enough for them to see the birds properly, and it will enable them to do their work in a calm and deliberate way, whereas, if birds are to be received on the morning of a show, and the arrangements are only completed in time to allow the judges an hour or so before the public are admitted, they are very apt to lose their equanimity, and consequently they perform their work in a hurried and unsatisfactory manner. If care is taken to explain this circumstance fully to the manager or secretary of the building, in which the show is to be held, two days only should be charged for.

Before finally fixing upon the show days it must be ascertained beyond all doubt whether another bird show is likely to take place at or about the same time in any other town, as it is an object of great moment to avoid clashing with any other show of the kind, and would be likely to prove detrimental to both. This can be easily ascertained by referring to the list of shows published weekly in any of the papers which provide for fanciers, such as the *Journal of Horticulture, Live Stock Journal, The Stockkeeper*, &c., or *The Bazaar**; the last contains as full a list as any of its contemporaries. As soon as

* *The Bazaar* has a system by which a show can be advertised in it's columns three times a week for the whole season, from the time of fixing the date until date of holding, for 10s.

the schedules have been satisfactorily arranged and the days of exhibition decided upon, the hall agreed for, and other preliminary matters settled, let the schedules be printed without delay. Four hundred copies should be ordered, and one sent to every known exhibitor in the kingdom. To obtain the addresses of these, the secretary should write for a catalogue of each show preceding his own, or refer to catalogues of the previous year. With regard to the best time of year to hold a canary show, much will depend upon circumstances, but it should certainly take place between the months of September and February, unless it be a "nest feather" show, and then the month of July will be found most suitable. Ten days at least should elapse between the last day for receiving entries and the first day of the exhibition, to allow the secretary ample time to arrange the catalogue, &c.

ANNOUNCING THE NAMES OF JUDGES.—Some societies deem it expedient to announce the name of the judge or judges upon the schedule; as to the advisability of this plan there is a variety of opinions. It is unquestionably open to discussion, hence I must refrain from offering an opinion thereon. Of one thing, however, I am fully convinced, and that is the desirability of a change of judges occasionally, as I find it gives more satisfaction to exhibitors. I have sometimes thought it would be well to submit the names of a number of well-known judges, and allow each exhibitor to vote for two, and finally to select the one or two, as may be deemed expedient, who received the greatest number of votes, but even this plan is open to objection. Always endeavour to procure a straightforward, conscientious man to act in this capacity. Some men are so anxious to become judges that they offer their services gratis, and in some cases agree to pay their own expenses as well. These men are generally fanciers with very limited experience, and are dear even on these terms, as their awards rarely give satisfaction to exhibitors, and they not unfrequently perpetrate gross blunders through ignorance. By all means avoid such men.

SERVANTS.—The men selected to attend upon birds during

an exhibition should invariably be fanciers—men who have a thorough knowledge of what they are required to do, and are sure to do it properly and well. It is probably the best plan to employ strangers—that is, people unconnected with the show — to collect the charges for admission and take the checks; at the same time, there is no serious objection to members of the committee being employed in these capacities if they are considered suitable and are willing to act.

It is undoubtedly best to employ a man who has a conveyance of his own adapted to the purpose of taking the birds to and from the railway station and the place of exhibition; but when such an arrangement is impracticable a horse and waggon can be employed; Messrs. Carver and Co. will be able to supply this desideratum in most towns north of the Humber, I believe, and how far south of the river I cannot say; be sure to arrange for a steady, reliable driver. Two members of the committee, at least, should accompany the conveyance, particularly on the return journey, to see the birds safely sent off.

Advertising. — Large posters, giving a full and clear announcement of when the exhibition is to take place, should be printed and freely distributed, and posted in all conspicuous and convenient places, at least a week before the show takes place. In addition to sending out schedules or programmes, it will be found advantageous to insert an advertisement, giving all particulars of the show, in at least two journals published in London, and those which promote the welfare of all persons interested in exhibitions of this sort by printing a weekly list of all coming shows should be favoured with these announcements. Such notices should be sent for publication as soon as the programmes are ready for distribution. It is customary, likewise, to advertise in each of the local papers published in the town where the exhibition is about to take place; one insertion in each paper is generally considered sufficient. It should appear in the week prior to that in which the show is to be held. There are several reasons why this custom should not be overlooked or neglected, and one is that a favourable report of the proceedings, &c., is likely to

follow, and these notices are calculated to bring the society into favour and public estimation.

POINTS PRIZES.—Silver cups and other special prizes of considerable value are frequently offered as inducements to fanciers to swell their entries. At one time I was in favour of this scheme, but experience, that unerring monitor, has taught me to regard this plan as objectionable, as it is open to so much abuse, and is found to tempt some exhibitors to place themselves in a false position, which proves a means of deluding fanciers at a distance, who are totally ignorant of the real facts of the case. I have known exhibitors who have succeeding in obtaining these trophies not only borrow birds from their brother fanciers, but do even worse, for, in order to comply with the rule (common to all shows of this kind) stipulating that "all birds must be *bonâ fide* the property of the exhibitor," they have agreed to mock purchases, the owner of the bird agreeing to sell, for a mere nominal sum, to the exhibitor, upon condition that at the termination of a certain show the said bird shall be re-sold to him for the same amount as he received for it, and that the said vendor (real owner) shall be entitled to all prize moneys won by such bird in its own individual capacity, and, furthermore, that he shall be entitled to participate in a proportionate share of the said special prize or prizes obtained by the exhibitor, the latter further agreeing to pay all entrance fees and other costs incident thereto, and in some cases binding himself to pay a certain sum to the vendor in the event of the bird dying or being lost, killed, maimed, or disfigured whilst in his custody or care; and this transparent and palpable device is considered by some men as a sufficient salve for their consciences.

Common sense should teach us that no man would withhold a bird from a show if he felt reasonably satisfied that it had a fair chance of success in obtaining a prize, and if he thought otherwise it is scarcely probable that he would be foolish enough to throw away money by entering it, unless it happened to be at a show held in the town where he resides, he might then be generous enough to send a few extra entries to swell the funds of the institution. If committees are wishful to

stimulate breeders and exhibitors to greater exertions by offering additional inducements, why not confine themselves to medals of moderate value intrinsically, and offer them for the best birds in such-and-such classes, or to the exhibitor who gains the greatest aggregate number of points in certain classes which must be specified? This would be an honorary distinction, hardly capable of being abused, and one which would be sure to be appreciated by all right-thinking men. There is another matter in connection with this subject deserving of attention. It is this. In counting points for extra prizes the recognised rule hitherto followed at nearly all shows has been to count three for a first prize, two for second, and one for third; but I think that commended birds should be included as well, and in the event of this suggestion being adopted, the rule should be to count first prize six points, second five, third four, very highly commended three, highly commended two, and commended one. I feel satisfied that where this plan is resorted to, when cups are given, it will tend greatly to increase the number of entries.

DISTRICT PRIZES.—A few prizes of small amounts should be offered for competition to fanciers living in the town and neighbourhood where the show is held. A radius of five miles might be allowed, and the classes confined to working men or cottagers only. I have tried the experiment, and was extremely pleased with the result, as I found it had a tendency to foster a spirit of enterprise and emulation among this class of fanciers.

PRIZES FOR PACKING CASES.—I am of opinion, too, that it would be good policy on the part of committees of shows if they were to offer special prizes for the two most approved packing cases sent to the exhibition containing specimens to be shown.

THE COMMITTEE, THEIR DUTIES, &C.—The duties of committee men are neither so onerous nor laborious as those of the secretary and treasurer of a show, particularly the former, for upon him the weight of the work rests. They should render all the assistance they can to these functionaries to

enable them to carry out the arrangements of the show in an efficient and praiseworthy manner, by endeavouring to raise funds, offering suggestions, and by deliberating carefully and thoughtfully upon all matters submitted for their approval or rejection, in the arrangement of a schedule of prizes, of a code of regulations for exhibition, in fixing upon the place of exhibition, in the appointment of judges, in directing the various items of expenditure, such as printing, advertising, &c., and in giving all the assistance they possibly can during the exhibition by unpacking the birds, and classifying them, and all other and similar duties, and by striving to do all in their power to get the birds packed and despatched to their destinations with as little delay as possible after the termination of the show. Each member should strive against his neighbour in endeavouring to set an example of cordiality, industry, and cheerfulness; for when men lose their temper at these times it is greatly to be regretted.

THE SECRETARY'S DUTIES.—The duties of a secretary to a show of any kind are laborious, and are not unfrequently a self-imposed task. I can assure those who have never undertaken such an office that it is by no means a sinecure, the emoluments derived therefrom are *nil*, the work is most arduous, and the thanks of the public and exhibitors are of the most meagre description; but if the show is not skilfully managed, and there are any hitches in the way, showers of abuse will most likely pour in on all sides. It is, therefore, by no means an enviable or thankful office, but somebody must undertake it, or what would become of our favourite hobby?

It will be seen from the foregoing remarks that a person, to fill an appointment of this kind, will need to possess several qualifications and some virtues, and be endowed with a good "thick skin" beside. In addition to keeping a minute book, in which all the business transactions of the society at each meeting are to be duly recorded, the secretary will have to keep a book containing a debtor and creditor account; on the debit side he will have to enter all sums received on behalf of the society from every source, and on the credit side he must

record every payment, however trivial. It will likewise be his duty to arrange about the printing and advertising, the taking of a proper building for the exhibition, and, in fact, he must look after and arrange everything in connection with the carrying out of the show, as the entire responsibility, in one sense, rests with him; but he must do nothing of his own accord—everything must be submitted to and sanctioned by the committee of management before it is acted upon.

PRINTING.—In selecting a printer be sure to employ one upon whose veracity and punctuality in all matters of business you can confidently rely, for if there is the least delay in having the catalogues and awards of prizes ready, and they are not sent off by first post after the judges have completed their task to those exhibitors who have sent the requisite amount to procure one or more copies, you may prepare yourself for the receipt of a few missives containing epithets the reverse of complimentary. The first year is always the most expensive in the item of printing. You will require to order three or four hundred programmes, which cost about 4s. 6d. a hundred; two hundred and fifty forms of entry, which are charged at about the same rate; fifty patrons' tickets, which cost about 3s. 6d.; three hundred admission tickets, in various colours, say, 6s. 6d.; one hundred and fifty prize cards—first, second and third prizes—different colours, 5s,; fifty tickets V.H.C., one hundred H.C., and one hundred C., the lot 5s. 6d.; three hundred class and prize tickets, 6s.; and a number of large class tickets on a white ground, say, six inches square, according to the number of classes for which prizes are offered, 2s. 6d. per dozen; two hundred posters—bills for distribution and posting up in conspicuous places, announcing the particulars of the show—demy folio, 10s. 6d.; one hundred and fifty catalogues, three-quarter sheet, with covers, £2 14s. The programmes I like printed on tinted paper, pink, white, pea-green, and yellow, or purple, or blue. The prices quoted may be regarded as moderate, considering that they are intended to represent charges for first-class workmanship, good clear type, and the best quality of paper. The cards should be rather large, and neatly executed, particularly the prize cards. The printing can

be done for much less by getting the programmes and entry forms combined in one sheet, and by curtailing some of the regulations, &c., and by using sheets instead of catalogues; but I am opposed to exhibiting a parsimonious and niggardly spirit in this direction, as I consider it detrimental and pernicious in its consequences. The quantities given here are for a show presumed to be managed upon a tolerably liberal basis; but in arranging these matters every circumstance of the case must be fully weighed and considered. The class tickets will last for years, if they are carefully preserved from show to show.

It will be found a good plan to get a piece of board, about two and a half to three feet long and six inches wide, stained and varnished, or plain, with varnished edges. This is for a sort of advertising board; slips of paper of the same or similar dimensions should be ordered with the words "Bird Show" printed upon them; one of these should be pasted on each side of the board, which should be secured with screw nails to the side of the door frame at the entrance to the place of exhibition, allowing it to project to its fullest extent outwards to the street. After the show is over it must be taken down and preserved until again required.

PROGRAMMES.—In arranging a programme the secretary ought to have the names of all persons forming the committee printed on the title page, which will cause them to be legally responsible with the secretary and treasurer for any deficiency in the event of a show proving a failure; otherwise they are, I presume, only morally bound, and if so disposed might back out of the concern at a moment's notice. The following specimens of a programme, and form and certificate of entry, will be found useful and instructive to those who are unacquainted with the mode of establishing a bird show. The regulations and conditions have been supplemented where it was considered expedient and necessary, and they will now be found sufficient to meet all requirements. The schedule of prizes is a good ordinary one, and can be augmented when considered desirable.

[Specimen.]

PROGRAMME.

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The First Annual Exhibition of

CANARIES, CANARY MULES, AND BRITISH CAGE BIRDS.

Open to the United Kingdom,
Will be held in the Victoria Hall, B——,
On Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 10 and 11, 188—.

PRESIDENT.	VICE-PRESIDENT.
C. LONDON, Esq., M.P.	S. BRIGHTON, Esq.

PATRONESSES.

Mrs. Mayoress.	Mrs. P.
Lady M.	The Misses H.
Mrs. H.	Mrs. J.

PATRONS.

The Worshipful the Mayor of B. (J.P.).	The Hon. R. B. H.
The Sheriff of B. (S.W.).	Lord D.
The Earl P.	J. C., Esq., M.P.
The Earl of H.	The Rev. the Vicar of B. (N.M.),
Capt. W.	&c., &c., &c.

MANAGING COMMITTEE.

Mr. D. Durham.	Mr. D. Derby.
Mr. Y. York.	Mr. W. Warwick.
Mr. L. Lancaster	Mr. L. Leicester.

With power to add to their number.

TREASURER: Mr. C. CHESTER.

HON. SEC.: Mr. N. NORTHAMPTON, 15, Claremont-villas, B——.

N.B.—Exhibitors are particularly requested to examine the regulations most carefully, and also the schedule of prizes, in order to avoid errors in making their entries.

REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS.

1. The decisions of the judges shall be final, unless it be proved that a bird has been fraudulently tampered with, in which case the decision shall be void, the committee reserving to themselves the right of adjudicating thereon.

2. When the entries do not exceed five in any class, the first prize will be withheld. The judges will be empowered to withhold a prize in any class when the specimens are considered inferior in quality and below the regular standard.

3. All specimens are to be *bonâ fide* the property of the exhibitor. Any person infringing this rule by any device shall, on proof of illegal ownership, forfeit all entrance fees and prize money.

4. Specimens entered in a wrong class shall be excluded, and the entrance fee forfeited.

5. A price must be named with each specimen—price to include the cage as well. Anyone offering the price specified will become the purchaser. No alteration in the prices of specimens will be allowed during the exhibition. All sales must take place through the secretary or other authorised member of the committee. Ten

per cent. will be deducted from all sales. All birds claimed must be paid for at the time, or the claim will not be entertained. All birds claimed to be removed at the expense and risk of the purchaser. Where two people claim a bird simultaneously, the person offering the highest price shall have the preference. The surplus over and above the catalogue price to go to the society's funds.

6. No bird shall be removed before the show is finally closed without a written order signed by two members of the committee and approved by the secretary.

7. The amount of entrance fees must be sent with the certificates of entry, and post office orders are to be made payable to Mr. N. Northampton, at B—. Postage stamps will not be taken in payment unless one additional 1d. stamp be sent for the amount of each separate entrance fee. No alteration will be allowed in any certificate after it has been received by the secretary.

8. Exhibitors will be held responsible for the correct descriptions of the specimens sent, and in the event of a dispute arising after purchase, they must, on proof of wrong entry, receive back the bird or birds so entered, and refund to the purchaser the full amount paid by him, with all costs and charges incident thereto. In all such cases the commission charged by the society will be forfeited.

9. The whole of the specimens must be in the Victoria Hall, B——, on Tuesday, the 9th of November. All cages are to be addressed to the secretary, Victoria Hall, B——. The carriage in all cases must be prepaid by exhibitors.

10. The specimens will be returned as desired; but, in the absence of special instructions, they will be forwarded by such trains as the committee consider most desirable. The show room will be properly warmed and ventilated, and every care will be taken of the specimens sent for exhibition. They will be carefully packed for the return journey, but the committee will not be responsible for any loss or damage that may happen to them, either on the way to or from, or during the exhibition.

11. No person will be admitted to the exhibition previous to its being opened, except those who are engaged in the arrangements.

12. Exhibitors requiring an award of prizes must send 6½d. in addition to their entrance fees.

13. The entries will close on Saturday, October the 30th, 188—.

☞ All prize moneys will be paid within ten days after the closing of the exhibition.

SCHEDULE OF PRIZES.

Class.	Description.	First.	Second.	Third.
1.	Clear, ticked, or marked yellow Belgian	12s.	6s.	3s.
2.	Clear, ticked, or marked buff Belgian	12s.	6s.	3s.
3.	Clear yellow Glasgow Don	12s.	6s.	3s.
4.	Clear buff Glasgow Don	12s.	6s.	3s.
5.	Flecked Glasgow Don	12s.	6s.	3s.
6.	Clear yellow Norwich	12s.	6s.	3s.
7.	Clear buff Norwich	12s.	6s.	3s.
8.	Evenly-marked yellow Norwich	12s.	6s.	3s.
9.	Evenly-marked buff Norwich	12s.	6s.	3s.
10.	Ticked or unevenly-marked yellow Norwich	12s.	6s.	3s.
11.	Ticked or unevenly-marked buff Norwich	12s.	6s.	3s.
12.	Any variety of crested yellow Norwich	12s.	6s.	3s.
13.	Any variety of crested buff Norwich	12s.	6s.	3s.

SCHEDULE OF PRIZES—(*continued*).

Class.	Description.	First.	Second.	Third.
14.	Golden-spangled Lizard	12s.	6s.	3s.
15.	Silver-spangled Lizard	12s.	6s.	3s.
16.	Clear yellow Yorkshire	12s.	6s.	3s.
17.	Clear buff Yorkshire	12s.	6s.	3s.
18.	Marked or variegated yellow Yorkshire	12s.	6s.	3s.
19.	Marked or variegated buff Yorkshire	12s.	6s.	3s.
20.	Jonque Cinnamon	12s.	6s.	3s.
21.	Buff Cinnamon	12s.	6s.	3s.
22.	Evenly-marked Cinnamon	12s.	6s.	3s.
23.	Any other variety of canary (distinct breed)	12s.	6s.	3s.
24.	Goldfinch mule, evenly-marked	12s.	6s.	3s.
25.	Goldfinch mule, unevenly-marked	12s.	6s.	3s.
26.	Dark Goldfinch mule	12s.	6s.	3s.
27.	Any other variety of mule	12s.	6s.	3s.
28.	Selling class (any variety of canary, price, with cage, not to exceed 15s.)	10s.	5s.	2s. 6d.
29.	Goldfinch	8s.	4s.	2s.
30.	Linnet	8s.	4s.	2s.
31.	Any other variety of British bird	8s.	4s.	2s.

DISTRICT PRIZES.

32.	Best clear or marked bird (any breed), to be shown solely for form, style, and condition	4s.	2s.	1s.
33.	The most evenly-marked bird (any breed)	4s.	2s.	1s.

Entrance fees for classes from 1 to 27 inclusive will be 1s. 6d. each bird, from 28 to 31 inclusive 1s. each bird. The district classes, confined to working men and cottagers, 6d. each entry; exhibitors to be resident in or within five miles of the town of B——. Exhibitors must provide their own cages.

Admission: Wednesday, from 1 to 6 p.m., 1s. each; from 6 to 9.30 p.m., 6d. each; and on Thursday, from 9 to 12 a.m., 1s. each; and from 12 to 6 p.m., 6d. each.

The exhibition will close punctually at the times stated, and visitors are respectfully requested to leave at the hours specified.

Subscribers of 10s. 6d. and upwards will be entitled to a family season ticket.

Children under 12 years of age and schools will be admitted at half price.

Catalogues, 6d. each; by post, 6½d.

[Specimen.]

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

FORM OF ENTRY.

Class.	Description.	Age of Specimen.	Price. £ s. d.	Remarks.
1	Clear yellow Belgian...	18 months...	10 0 0	State here sex, or "Sex not known," or "Age not known," as the case may be.
2	Marked Buff Belgian...	2 years.....	5 5 0	
6	Clear yellow Norwich..	8 months...	3 0 0	

I do hereby enter the above birds for competition, *subject to the regulations and conditions of this Society, and I do furthermore solemnly and sincerely declare that they*

are bond fide my property, and I inclose the sum of £ to enable me to become an exhibitor.

Signature .....

Address (in full) .....

Date.....

6½d. inclosed for Catalogue.

CATALOGUES.—After the schedules are printed and a copy sent to every well-known exhibitor in the United Kingdom, it will be necessary to obtain and prepare a book, from which the catalogues will have to be printed. Great care must be taken in its arrangement. The book used should be about fourteen inches long, eight inches wide, and from half to three-fourths of an inch in thickness, and ruled with £ *s. d.* columns. On the title-page you must set forth the name of the society and other particulars, similar to the following sppecimen:

CATALOGUE.

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

First Annual Exhibition of

BRITISH CAGE AND SONG BIRDS,

Open to the United Kingdom,

Held in the Victoria Hall, B——,

On Wednesday and Thursday, November 10th and 11th, 188—.

Judges—M. Herniman Toke, Puddletown; Mr. Jeremiah Smasher, Bowlover.

President—C. London, Esq., M.P. | Hon. Sec.—Mr. N. Northampton.
Vice President—S. Brighton, Esq. | Treasurer—Mr. C. Chester.

And upon the first leaf of the book begin the heading thus:

CATALOGUE.

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

CANARIES, &c.

N.B.—The cage is, in every case, included in the price of all specimens sent for competition. No specimen or other bird will be allowed to be disposed of privately, or removed during the exhibition. For addresses of exhibitors see index. Abbreviations: First signifies First Prize; Second, Second Prize; Third, Third Prize; V.H.C., Very Highly Commended; H.C., Highly Commended; C., Commended.

Then arrange the classes thus:

[Specimen.]

Class 1.—Clear, Marked, or Ticked Yellow Belgian.
First Prize, 12s.; Second, 6s.; Third, 3s.

		£	s.	d.
C.	No. 1. Mr. J. Nash, cock, age 4 months.....	3	3	0
V.H.C.	No. 2. Mr. S. Jones, hen, 6 months.....	2	0	0

		£	s.	d.
Second.	No. 3. Mr. G. Smith, cock, 1 year	4	10	0
H.C.	No. 4. Mr. W. Thompson, cock, 16 months	5	0	0
First	No. 5. Mr. P. Brunt	10	0	0

N.B.—Do not begin to number them until all the entries have been received on November 1.

Continue to arrange all the classes in this way, leaving a separate page for each class. After you have received all the entry forms, which should reach you on the day following that advertised as the last day for receiving them, you must fill up and despatch by post to each exhibitor a class ticket for every entry made. These tickets must denote the number of the class, the consecutive number of the entry, and the price of the specimen, in the order mentioned. Having completed this part of your duty, you must proceed to compile an index at the back of the book, according to the plan given below, which will be found so arranged as to prevent the possibility of a mistake being made when the re-packing commences, provided always that the rules herein laid down are strictly observed on all occasions.

[Specimen.]

Con. No.	No. of Entries.	INDEX.
1	3	Adam, Timothy, Brick-place, Battle Town—40, 51, 62.
2	2	Abraham, Simon, Smoke-hill, Fryington—9, 55.
3	6	Barebell, William, Possum-row, Bogglesbury—1, 2, 6, 7, 52, 53.
4	1	Brunt, Peter, Scisson-grove, Raynortowne—3.
5	4	Codrake, Thomas, Over-terrace, Furness—4, 5, 54, 68.
6	8	Cauliflower, Charles, Garden-place, Orchardton—6, 7, 8, 12, 42, 43, 56, 57.
7		Duff, Nicholas, Brownlow-terrace, Wheatley—14, 15, 16.
7½	2	Dent, Isaac, Drinkwater-place, Templer-town—17, 21.
8	1	Eagle, Edward, Dove-place, Lambourney—30.
9	5	Easysides, Philip, Slow-hill, Snailsby—10, 11, 13, 31, 45.
10	3	Farthing, Benjamin, Silver-street, Stirling—46, 18, 20.
10½	7	Feast, Jonathan, The Esplanade, Bunkrun—23, 24, 25, 32, 33, 47, 48.
11	1	Goodfellow, George, Christian Bank, Bushwell—50.
12	2	Green, Patrick, Shiney-row, Emeralda—35, 61.

The index should always be arranged alphabetically; in front of the names you must arrange two columns of numbers. The

first column should contain the consecutive numbers of the entries, beginning with number one, and afterwards continuing to the end of the list of exhibitors. In column number two you must enter the number of birds shown by each exhibitor opposite his name, and at the end of the address add the numbers of the entries according to the class arrangement of the catalogues.

RECEIVING AND STAGING THE BIRDS.—On the day announced for the receipt of the birds you should be in attendance at the place of exhibition at such times as birds may arrive; this you will ascertain on reference to a railway time-table giving the arrivals of the trains. One of the committee, or some duly authorised person specially appointed, and armed with an authority in writing duly signed by the secretary and dated, should be in attendance at the railway station to receive the birds and have them forwarded to the place of exhibition with the least possible delay. As soon as they arrive they should be opened out, and the secretary or one of the committee-men should chalk upon each cage at the top the number that is opposite the name of the exhibitor in the consecutive column; as soon as they have been numbered they must be counted to see that they are all there. If one is wanting to complete the entry, the secretary can easily ascertain which bird is missing by referring to the class numbers in the index at the end of the name and address of the exhibitor; he will then communicate the fact to the owner. It sometimes happens that a bird is taken ill at the last moment, and not forwarded to a show in consequence. In such a case the exhibitor ought to intimate the fact to the secretary, but this is rarely done. Those birds which are sent in wrappers or other covers must be carefully dealt with. Before the birds are unpacked someone should be appointed to take charge of and fold up the wrappers and tie the address labels for the return journey outside of them. The number of birds packed in each wrapper should be marked upon the label, for some fanciers who make large entries are often necessitated to send their birds in two or three separate packages. As soon as the wrappers are properly folded and labelled they should be stowed away in a secure

place and neatly arranged. It is a bad plan to have too many assistants in unpacking. There should be one person to open the packages, another to place the chalk numbers on the cages. The secretary should tick off the entries himself. A fourth person ought to be deputed to arrange the birds in their proper classes; a fifth to feed and give them water. More helpers than these are superfluous, and likely to be productive of mischief.

The secretary must be firm in keeping order among those officials entrusted to perform the various duties mentioned, and should prevent undue interference by one assistant with another, or other kind of obstructiveness.

LATE ENTRIES.—There are sure to be some late entries. By this I mean birds entered for competition after the stipulated time, and after you have arranged your catalogue in manuscript. Such entries are very troublesome, but it is quite optional with the secretary, whether he accepts them or not; in fact, I am not sure if he is legally justified in doing so without a proviso in the regulations to enable him to do it. About four years ago I introduced a system of post entries, charging an additional fee of sixpence for each entry for so many days after that specified for the ordinary closing, and I should like to see this plan more generally adopted, as fanciers who neglect to send their entries at the proper time should pay for their negligence. When you receive entries of this sort you must deal with them in this fashion. Suppose, for example, you receive two entries for Class 5, and the last entry in that class is numbered 47, you must enter the two additional birds thus: 47A, 47B, and so on; and in the index in this manner: Presuming the name of the person who has sent the late entry is Dunn, and the last person entered under letter D is represented by the consecutive number 22, you must distinguish the specimens entered by Mr. Dunn by adding a ½ to the figures 22, so that his number will be 22½. By this simple arrangement the packing for the return journey, which is always looked forward to as a formidable undertaking by most people, is greatly facilitated, and rendered quite an easy task.

PACKING AND RETURNING BIRDS.—As soon as the show is concluded and the room cleared of visitors the doors should be all secured. In the next place, all the birds should be gathered together and placed in lots—all the number one's, two's, and so on. The packers must then be told off, two being apportioned for each lot of birds. Three lots of packers are ample in ordinary cases, and, if good hands, should be able to clear out the place in a few hours. Each couple of packers should have an attendant, whose duty it is to pick out the wrappers for each different lot, and call out the numbers for the secretary to tick off each bird according to its class number. One of the packers will then tie each two cages together with twine, having first emptied the water out of the drinking tins, and hand them to the other packer to arrange in the cover. Whilst the packers are engaged sewing up the package, the attendant can be preparing the next lot. They should be packed consecutively, excepting those birds which are to be sent a long distance, as these should in all cases be sent off by the first train.* The secretary should pre-arrange matters with the station-master, and should furnish a list of the number of packages sent by each conveyance, or at each separate journey of the one engaged, and get the lists signed by the railway company's servants.

ASSISTANCE AND TREATMENT OF JUDGES.—But there are other important duties to be performed beside, both before the opening and during the exhibition. As soon as all the birds are arranged, and examined to see that they are all properly classed, fed, and supplied with water, the room should be swept; the floor should be strewn all over with damp sand or sawdust previous to this being done to prevent the birds getting soiled with dust. These preliminaries being completed, you are now ready to admit the judges. You should prepare for each judge a lead pencil and a small memorandum or judging book, in which you have previously written the number and heading of each class; request each of them (if more than one) to mark down the number and particulars of every bird to which they award a prize or commendation. With the judges you should

* When practicable, the night mail will in all cases be found most suitable.

send a person to act as amanuensis to them; he must not be an exhibitor, nor connected directly or indirectly with one. This person should be furnished with slips of paper, which must be obtained from the printer, being in reality leaves of a catalogue minus the awards; he should keep behind the judges, and ought not to hold any communication with them whatever, beyond marking down the awards when they are called over. A boy should likewise be in attendance to tie on the prize tickets, under the supervision of the person attendant upon the judges (unless the "Field Duplicate Judging Books" are used, in which case an attendant is not necessary). The whole of these officials should be regaled, say, once in two or three hours, with some light refreshment whilst performing their duties. It is usual to consult them as to what they prefer—tea, coffee, or a glass of sherry and a biscuit, or bread and cheese and beer. After every two or three classes have been judged, the boy or attendant should hand out the slips that are ready to the secretary, who should keep a copy of them for his own guidance, and send the originals to the printer; by adopting this method you are enabled to have your catalogues ready very shortly after the judges have finished their work. As soon as they have completed their task have a good substantial dinner ready for them. After dinner the judges should check the catalogue with the books supplied them by the secretary, to see that no error has been made; they should then sign them, having first certified that they are correct. These books should be retained by the secretary for future reference in case of any dispute. He will then pay them their fees and travelling expenses, taking a receipt for the same, unless the treasurer is present to do so.

Selling Tickets.—With regard to the arrangement for selling tickets, he must give the person authorised to receive the admission charges so many tickets of each kind, debiting him with their value. Another person must be employed to collect these and to act as check. Instruct the latter to admit no one without a ticket. To distinguish between the tickets sold at the door and those sold by members or given to subscribers, put your name or initials to the latter and leave the former blank. Every

hour or two the ticket collector or check should hand in to the secretary or treasurer the tickets collected by him, which should be sorted and entered on a sheet, and afterwards placed under lock and key. The secretary will likewise supply the ticket salesman with catalogues to sell to visitors; these must form a separate account.

CHECKING ACCOUNTS.—After the show is over the secretary must make out a list of prize money payable to each exhibitor, and hand it to the treasurer; he will likewise account to the treasurer for all cash he receives for subscriptions, &c., every meeting night, if the treasurer is present, taking his receipt for each payment in a memorandum book which should be used for this purpose. The secretary will likewise, on each show night, check over the amount of the takings at the door, in the presence of the treasurer and committee, and after counting and entering the same in his book, hand the money over to the treasurer, taking his acknowledgment as before. No false delicacy should be exercised on these occasions, but everything should be done in a straightforward business-like manner, and with exactness. The secretary will, furthermore, gather in the various accounts, and hand them to the treasurer for payment; when paid, the treasurer will hand them to the secretary, who will enter them on the credit side of his account before filing them.

REMOVAL OF PRICES FROM CAGES.—Before the judges enter the show room I have always made it a rule to cut off all the prices from the class tickets, so that they may not in any way be influenced in their opinion by a fancier's own estimation of his birds, for some judges if they observe two birds in the same class precisely alike, are apt to refer to the prices before giving their verdicts, and if not thoroughly self-reliant men and endowed with moral courage, they are wont to pander to the opinions of the owners. Another reason is, that it is often the means of causing a good sale for catalogues, as many people purchase them on purpose to get to know the price of the specimens; it is also a sort of key to fanciers, as it enables them to estimate the qualities of a judge; for there are few fanciers of experience who do not know as well, and sometimes better, than some of those

people who act in that capacity, the real merits and qualifications of their specimens.

ORDERS FOR CATALOGUES.—Whenever an exhibitor sends an order and prepayment for one or more catalogues, I make an entry in front of his name in the index thus, "1 c." or "2 c.," and so on, according to the number paid for; this I do with red ink, to appear more conspicuous. I afterwards make out a list of the names and addresses of those fanciers who have paid for them, and as soon after as convenient I direct a stamped newspaper wrapper to each of them ready to fold the catalogue in as soon as received from the printer. When more than one is paid for, I put the number required immediately below the address in plain figures, so that they can be got ready in a few minutes for the post.

MISCELLANEOUS HINTS.—The secretary or treasurer and one or two of the committee, alternately, should be in constant attendance to give any explanation to patrons and others desiring it, and to keep proper order in the show room. Sometimes flowers, stuffed birds, evergreens, or music are introduced as additional attractions, but these are merely accessories, and may be adopted or rejected at the discretion of the committee. It is sometimes considered desirable to have a show opened by some person in a high social position, and to charge an extra fee to witness the ceremony, but this plan has never been attended with success within my knowledge. Exhibitors are in some cases admitted to the show at any time, when open, on payment of sixpence. No birds can be sold or removed without the authority of the secretary and in conformity with the regulations. An account of all sales should be kept.

After the receipt of entries, if you find that the show is badly supported, write a letter to each of the principal exhibitors who have not already patronised your show, pressing them to do so; your appeal is sure to meet with some responses.

Every night that the specimens are in the show room a diligent search should be made to see that no cat, or person, is concealed on the premises, prior to the lights being extinguished, and the room secured for the night. Someone should take charge during

the night, unless a hall-keeper resides in some part of the building, when it may be considered unnecessary. If you find it desirable during any period of the exhibition to have a policeman in attendance, you can get one by giving timely notice to the superintendent of the town or district where the show is held.

Be sure to see that the drinking tins are always returned with the cages to which they belong; this is often neglected, and causes annoyance and needless expense to exhibitors.

Refreshments should be supplied to those people who are engaged in any arduous duties, such as packing and unpacking birds, arranging the tables or stands for the cages, and similar duties. Members of the committee should each have a family season ticket given to them, unless they wear favours in their coats by which they can be easily recognised by the ticket collector and check-taker.

TREASURER'S DUTIES.—The duties of a treasurer to an ornithological association are more confidential than onerous. He will be required to take charge of all moneys collected on behalf of the society; he will furthermore be required to pay all accounts, or depute the secretary to do so, incurred on its behalf; he must likewise keep a debtor and creditor account as well as the secretary, so that they will act as a check to each other, and be a means of preventing errors or irregularities. After the conclusion of the show, and all the disbursements are completed, he will be required to prepare a balance sheet *in extenso*, setting forth the source from which the funds have been derived, showing at a glance the amount received by subscriptions, entrance fees, sale of tickets, admissions to the exhibition, &c., separately, and on the debit side every item of expenditure should be plainly and clearly specified, so that it is intelligible to the meanest capacity. After it is completed it should be submitted to the committee for their inspection, information, and approval, at a special meeting called for that purpose. If it is satisfactory to all, it is customary for a vote of thanks to be accorded to both the secretary and treasurer, and also to the vice-chairman; but this duty devolves upon the committee. If a balance remains in favour of the society, it should be placed in the Post-office or other savings bank in the names of three

trustees, which should always include the secretary and treasurer and one of the committee or the vice-chairman. In the event of the society being in arrears, the secretary and treasurer are liable to be sued in the county court for any debt legally contracted on behalf of the society, and they in turn can sue every member of the committee for his rateable proportion should he refuse to pay it voluntarily. This is, I believe, the law on the subject.

ACCOUNTS. — The following specimen of a balance sheet will doubtless be found very serviceable, especially to those who are unacquainted with practical bookkeeping. The names used for the society, secretary, committee, and all and every name which appears not only in the account, but likewise those in the specimens given for arranging a schedule and catalogue, are, as a matter of course, imaginary or fictitious. After the conclusion of the meeting, the treasurer should hand over to the secretary all the accounts he has paid, and the balance sheet, which should be carefully checked, and afterwards filed. Sometimes auditors are appointed to examine the accounts, and certify their correctness; but in a matter of this kind such a course appears to me to be unwarrantable and offensive, unless there is some just ground for adopting it, more especially when the appointments are purely honorary. A treasurer should render the secretary all the assistance in his power, as he is the individual on whom the brunt of the battle falls.

SENDING PRIZE MONEY.—When the prize money is sent to the exhibitors, an acknowledgment should be obtained. Keep the numbers, dates, and amounts of the post-office Money Orders sent to each, so that payment can be proved if necessary. Never send postage stamps in payment of prize money, however small the amount, nor Postal Orders, which are not by any means secure.

ADVICE TO JUDGES. — Never accept an appointment to officiate as judge at any show unless you feel morally certain that there is no reason why you should not be able to fulfil your engagement, as it is a great disappointment to the managers when a judge, after accepting office, fails to attend. Should you happen to feel at all unwell a few days before

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY in Account with C. Chester, Treasurer.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To subscriptions collected by—		
N. Northampton	8 10 0	
C. Chester	6 0 0	
D. Durham	2 15 0	
Y. York	0 12 0	
L. Lancaster	0 10 6	
D. Derby	0 9 0	
W. Warwick	0 6 6	
L. Leicester	0 4 0	
		19 7 0
To entrance fees—		
189 at 1s. 6d.	14 3 6	
23 at 1s.	1 3 0	
		15 6 6
To amount collected at door—		
November 10th	4 6 6	
„ 11th	3 7 6	
		7 14 0
To tickets sold by—		
D. Durham	0 6 0	
L. Lancaster	0 3 0	
W. Warwick	0 4 6	
D. Derby	0 2 6	
L. Leicester	0 2 0	
		0 18 0
To catalogues sold		0 16 0
To commission on birds sold		0 10 0
		£44 11 6

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By amount paid for prizes		19 13 0
By expenses of show—		
Victoria Hall (hire and gas)	3 17 6	
W. Smith (for attendance)	0 10 0	
T. Jones „	0 5 0	
G. Thomson „	0 10 0	
F. Popham „	0 5 0	
Mr. Y. Z. Primrose (judge)	1 1 0	
Mr. P. F. Daisy „	1 1 0	
„ travelling expenses	0 17 6	
Dinners for judges	0 10 0	
P. Typo, account for printing	5 3 6	
Postage stamps, stationery, &c.	1 15 0	
Advertisements, *Bazaar*	0 10 0	
„ The *Gazette* (local)	0 4 0	
„ „ *Journal* „	0 4 0	
„ „ *News* „	0 4 0	
Commission on Post-office orders	0 4 6	
T. Small's Account (bird seed)	0 5 0	
P. Jerk (twine, &c.)	0 3 6	
Bones Brothers (account for refreshments)	0 10 6	
R. Spice (for conveying birds, &c.)	0 7 6	
T. Stone (for notice board)	0 1 0	
Packing needles and sundries	0 1 6	
		18 11 0
Total expenditure		38 4 0
Balance in hands of Treasurer		6 7 6
		£44 11 6

a show is about to take place, where you are under an engagement to act in that capacity, it will be advisable to communicate the fact to the secretary without delay, so that he may be prepared, in the event of your not being able to officiate, with a substitute to fill your place. Be sure always to be in attendance in good time on the day fixed for your services. If the show is held at a town situated a great distance from the one in which you reside, it will be best for you to arrive there the previous night, unless you prefer to travel all night, or can reach it before nine a.m. by proceeding by an early morning train on the day of the show. It is not a commendable practice to travel all night, as it is very likely to unfit a man for the proper performance of his duties. As soon as you accept an appointment as judge at a show, you should request the secretary to furnish you with a schedule or programme of prizes and the regulations, which you should read over attentively, and if there is anything in it which you do not clearly comprehend, write at once for an explanation. Before you proceed on your journey to the town where the show is to take place you should prepare yourself with a small memorandum book, which you must arrange in the same way as the schedule, that is, so far as the classification is concerned. You should likewise write the word "prize" on three separate and consecutive lines, and also immediately below these the letters V.H.C., leaving two lines on which to enter the numbers, then H.C. and C., acting in the same way. You then only require to fill in first, second, and third prizes, and the numbers of the other birds entitled to distinction, which saves much time. The secretary should likewise prepare for you a book of this kind, but it is for his own reference and satisfaction. This book I always fill in from my own, and afterwards check it over with the printed catalogue. I then certify it as being correct, sign it, and then hand it to the secretary; but the catalogue I keep, and after I return home I compare it with my own book; if I discover a discrepancy I write to the secretary to rectify it without delay. You should likewise prepare yourself with a good eyeglass—a powerful magnifier—and three

small phials, containing tests for stained birds, one of spirits of wine, another of liquor of potass, and the third should contain a good strong solution of common washing soda, or a little well diluted hydrochloric acid, but unless the latter is properly prepared it is dangerous to use; the fumes of this acid will remove most dyes, but this, too, is a dangerous process, and should not be practised by anyone who does not thoroughly understand how to use it. A pair of small tweezers will be found useful for examining the pinion and body feathers, &c., of the specimens. You must likewise be supplied with one or two spotless white handkerchiefs and a piece of nice clean cotton wadding, in case you should require to test the genuineness of the colour of any birds. If the legs of a bird are stained with a colouring matter, or the underflue, when blown, appears discoloured, or if the colour be quite uniform throughout and void of bloom, it is pretty evident that the bird has been tampered with. I have detected several in this way. Whilst you are judging be sure to partake of some light refreshment, but avoid alcoholic beverages, unless it be a glass of sherry or good bitter beer. After you enter the show room, and before you commence your duties, take a walk round the hall or room, and satisfy yourself that you thoroughly understand the class arrangements. If you observe any birds drooping, or any saturated with water from bathing, remove them to the fire to get warmed or dried, as the case may be, but be sure not to overlook them when you come to judge the classes to which they belong. If you find a bird in a wrong class, call the attention of the secretary to the fact. Always use your own judgment independently in giving awards; pander to no man in this respect. Should there be two judges, and you fail to agree after carefully going into all the points of the birds in dispute, let the secretary appoint another person to act as referee to decide between you; his opinion must be final. Where there are three judges, the majority must prevail. When you commence to judge a class of birds look them through very carefully, and place all the best birds—that first strike you—together; then commence to compare and examine them minutely, and give your awards. Do nothing hurriedly, and

always act conscientiously, honestly, and fearlessly, and with the greatest impartiality, regardless of all consequences; any man who acts otherwise is unworthy to fill the office. The usual fee for judging is one guinea per day, exclusive of travelling expenses and hotel bill, unless you agree to act upon any other terms. If a show is likely to prove a failure, you might give your services gratuitously, charging bare expenses only.

If, on your way to a show, you happen to miss the train, or if a break-down or other accident should occur which is likely to delay your arrival at the expected time, telegraph to the secretary all necessary particulars, giving the time when you expect to reach your destination. If it should be a dull or wet day, and the light is bad, leave those classes judged principally for colour to the last. Proceed with Yorkshire Fancies or the marked classes, and always count the wing and tail feathers of all the prize birds; if any are wanting in a specimen, it should be disqualified. Write on the class ticket the words "Disqualified," "Deficient in plumage." A bird may have lost a feather by accident, and if it is in the cage you should mention the fact to the secretary, who will consult with the committee, and if they are satisfied that the feather has been shed whilst in their custody it should not be considered a disqualification, or counted as such. The bird should stand, but the committee should look well to this, as an unscrupulous exhibitor might extract a foul feather from the tail or wing of a show specimen and place a dark one (or *vice versâ*) in the bottom of the cage, taken from another bird. I have heard of such things being done.

In judging Lizard canaries, handle them, and blow them all over, and notice particularly that the bird has not a bald face which has been "blacked in," and that there are no white feathers in the pinion covers. Examine their legs minutely, as they are often found to be stained, and also the upper mandible. In judging crested birds, see that the crests are not gummed down. These and a variety of similar dishonest practices are often resorted to by unprincipled fanciers.

In judging an "any other variety" class of canaries, you should select the three best specimens of each distinct variety shown,

and place them first, second, and third, according to their individual merits; never giving two prizes to the same variety, unless much superior in merit to birds of a different variety; but in awarding prizes in a selling class, you should give them to the best birds exhibited—to those of the greatest intrinsic value, apart from any other consideration.

In serving as judge several times during the past twenty-five years at the Crystal Palace, Alexandra Palace, and many other important shows, I have always acted in accordance with the plan herein set forth, and I never was found fault with. Of late, I have reluctantly been necessitated to refuse a great many invitations to be judge at different shows, owing to the nature of my employment (and through ill-health), as I have great difficulty in getting from home. I would add, in conclusion: a judge should always bear in mind that he is as much the servant of the exhibitors as he is of the managers of a show, and that if he is faithful in the discharge of his duties, he must act with the most studied impartiality.

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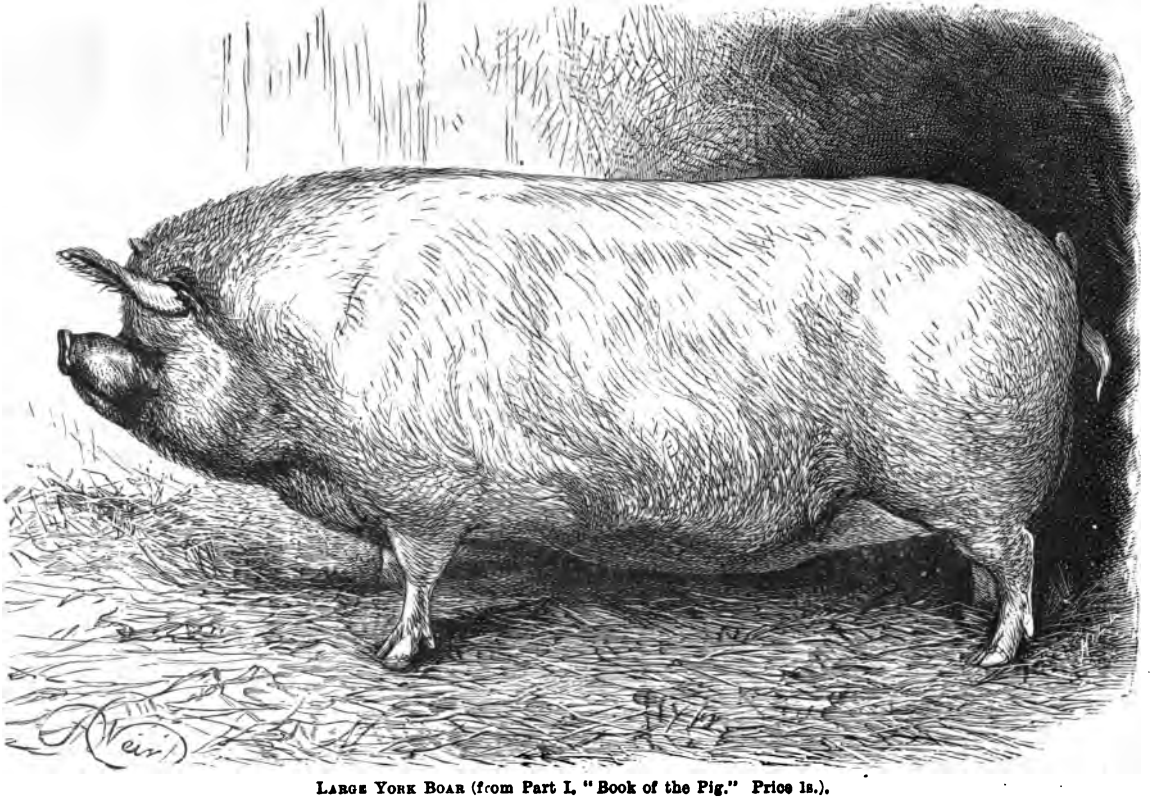

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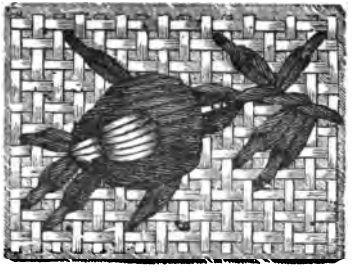

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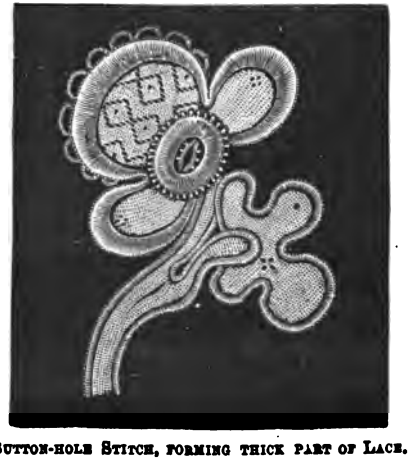

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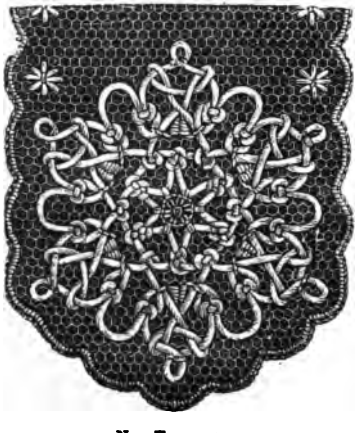

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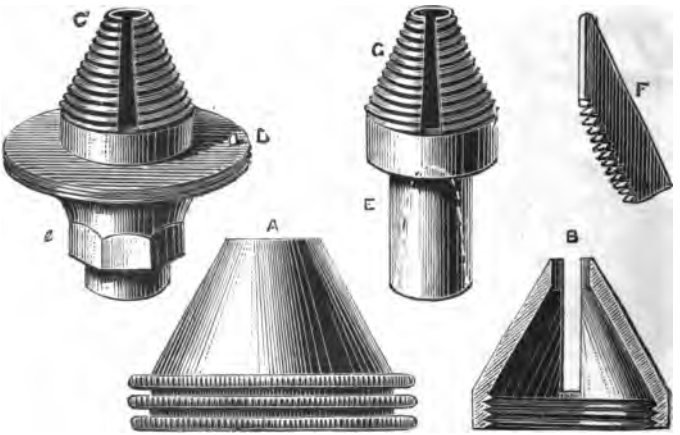

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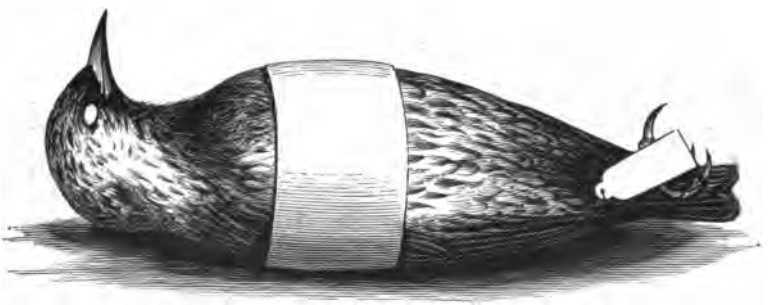

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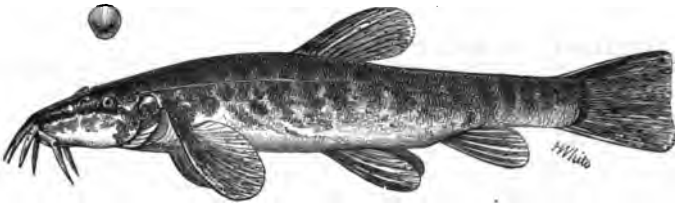

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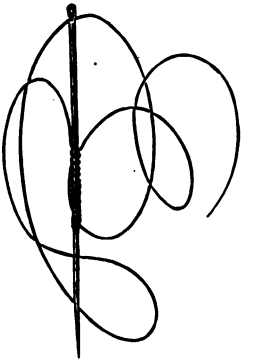

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Yours truly, F. DE LUSIGNAN.

2, Fir-street, Sydenham,
July 15, 1873.

DEAR SIR,—I am most happy to tell you that I have reason to commend your excellent Hyperion Hair Restorer, as it has already turned the grey hair of a person fifty-seven years old to its natural colour.
Yours respectfully,
T. WHATMORE.

83, Dewsbury-road, Leeds,
May 23, 1873.

DEAR SIR,—I want half-a-dozen more bottles of your Hyperion Hair Restorer, some for friends and the remainder for myself; it is the best restorer of grey hair to its natural colour.
Yours truly, JAMES DAWSON.

***** Be careful to ask for Latreille's Hyperion Hair Restorer, as the manufacturer is also proprietor of Latreille's Excelsior Lotion, which is a separate preparation, of universal repute for 20 years past, as a Producer of Hair.**

LUXURIANT AND BEAUTIFUL HAIR.

NOTHING EVER INTRODUCED HAS BEEN FOUND TO EQUAL

Latreille's Excelsior Lotion

Celebrated among all classes of Society all over the World as the only Real Producer of

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Remedy for Baldness, Weak and Falling Hair, &c., and Curer of Scurf or Dandriff.

Price 2s. 6d. per Bottle.

Can be had of any Chemist, through BARCLAY, SANGER, NEWBERY, EDWARDS, SUTTON, THOMPSON, HOVENDEN, MAW & Co., or any other Wholesale Chemist, or direct from the Proprietors,

LATREILLE & CO., WALWORTH, LONDON, S.E.,

On remitting Postal Order or Stamps.

CAUTION.—*Be careful to ask for Latreille's "Excelsior Lotion," and refuse anything else that may be offered, as the enormous success, extending over twenty years, has led to many useless imitations, which can only disappoint. The title* "EXCELSIOR LOTION" *is a registered Trade Mark, to copy which will incur criminal prosecution.*

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2nd.—Because the majority of "Hair Restorers" bring the users into ridicule by producing only a sickly yellow tint or dirty greenish stain, instead of a proper colour.

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Price 3s. 6d., sent in return for Postal Order or Stamps, by the Proprietors, **LATREILLE & CO., Walworth, London,** or may be had of Chemists:

But it is strongly advised that anything else, offered from interested motives, be resolutely refused, as Latreille's Hyperion NEVER DISAPPOINTS. All Chemists can readily procure through wholesale houses, if they have it not themselves in stock.

SPECIMEN TESTIMONIALS.

20, Royal George-street, Stockport,
February 26, 1880.

DEAR SIR,—My hair went white through trouble and sickness, but one bottle of your Hyperion Hair Restorer brought it back to a splendid brown, as nice as it was in my young days. I am now forty years old, and all my friends wonder to see me restored from white to brown. You can make what use you like of this. Yours truly,
(Mrs.) MARIA WORTHINGTON.

132, High-street, Stourbridge, May 16, 1878.

SIR,—I find your Hyperion Hair Restorer is a first-class and really genuine article, and is well worth the money. After using it thrice, my hair began to turn the natural colour whereas before it was quite grey; it also keeps the hair from falling off, and I shall always recommend it to every one I know. You are at liberty to publish this if you choose. Yours truly, (Mrs.) M. DAVIS.

Thirsk, Yorks, January 26, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—I use your Hyperion Hair Restorer, and find it everything which has been said in its favour. I am, dear Sir, yours truly, T. COATES.

Porchester, near Fareham, Hants, Oct. 16, 1875.

SIR,—Please send me another bottle of your Hyperion Hair Restorer; it is better than any other restorer I have tried. Yours faithfully,
(Mrs.) C. CHRISTIE.

High-street, Corsham, Wilts,
December 2, 1874.

DEAR SIR,—I enclose stamps for another bottle of your Hyperion Hair Restorer; its clean qualities are sufficient to recommend it anywhere.
Yours respectfully, E. MAYNARD.

St. Heliers, Jersey,
August 1, 1873.

SIR,—Please send me another bottle of your Hyperion Hair Restorer; I bear willing testimony to its being very pleasant to use, both as to cleanliness and absence of disagreeable smell.
Yours truly, F. DE LUSIGNAN.

2, Fir-street, Sydenham,
July 15, 1873.

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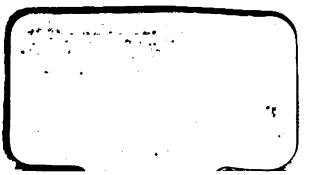

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